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# ***Daily Report***

# **Near East & South Asia**

FBIS-NES-95-228  
Tuesday  
28 November 1995

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# Daily Report

## Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-228

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28 November 1995

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## Barcelona Conference

### Israel Appeals to Syria To 'Make Peace'

AU2711193295 Paris AFP in English  
1855 GMT 27 Nov 95

[Report by Julie Bradford]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Barcelona, Spain, Nov 27 (AFP) — Israel made a direct appeal to Syria to make peace on Monday at the opening of the Barcelona conference, stealing the show from the European Union which wanted to concentrate on Euro-Mediterranean ties.

Israel's Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq told his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar' in his opening address: "Let's make peace."

"I look at this conference hall and I see representatives from Lebanon and Syria, including my counterpart Mr. Al-Shar'. Permit me to address a few words to you," Baraq said.

"We have been rivals on the battlefield and shed the blood of our courageous soldiers, the finest sons of Syria and Israel.

"Let us now make peace."

Al-Shar' stared straight ahead as Baraq made his speech, while PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat nodded in agreement.

Baraq continued: "Peace between us is of strategic importance and, I believe, of strategic importance to Syria too.

"We have to overcome the memories, bring down the walls of suspicion and learn to respect each other's perspective, interests and sensitivities.

"Our challenges will be to understand the security needs of each other and establish a viable structure that would respond and cater to both."

Baraq and Al-Shar' both left the conference hall separately after the speech. Al-Shar', who was yet to speak, returned several minutes later.

Al-Shar' had earlier refused an Israeli request to meet Baraq on the sidelines of the two-day conference, and the Israeli minister's words put the ball firmly in Syria's court.

The conference is the first time in four years that Syria has attended an international forum also involving Israel, outside UN assemblies.

The two countries' peace talks are deadlocked over the terms of an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, seized in the 1967 Middle East war.

The European Union has repeatedly stressed that the Barcelona conference would not be a forum for the Middle East to air its problems.

Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana opened the conference by saying: "We are not going to resolve all our differences here: the frameworks already exist to do that."

But Lebanon's foreign minister used his speech to condemn Israel's occupation of a border security zone and "daily aggressions" in south Lebanon, which he said was an obstacle to peace.

'Arafat also referred to the Palestinian people's demand for self-determination as part of their campaign for an independent state, which has already angered Israel in the run-up to the conference.

Arab-Israeli differences have meant that a final declaration to be issued at the end of the conference Tuesday has not yet been finalised.

Syria has stuck to its guns over its demand that the conference distinguish between terrorism and the right to resist foreign occupation.

Israel, which occupies Arab land seized in the 1967 Middle East war as well as south Lebanon, says it will refuse to support such a clause.

Another row also erupted between Syria and the EU over a planned free trade zone in the region by 2010 which will involve industrial goods and services but not agricultural products.

Negotiators who have been locked in intensive talks all weekend to try to reach a compromise admitted defeat on Monday and handed the problem over to ministers from the countries involved.

The conference has brought together foreign ministers from the 15 EU countries, Israel, Turkey, Malta, Cyprus and eight Arab delegations — Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, the Palestinian Authority, Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria.

Al-Shar' responded by saying in his address to the conference: "If General Baraq is serious in what he said about peace, Syria is ready to offer full peace in return for a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights, south Lebanon and the recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people."

"In this case, it would be possible to reach a peace accord in the coming months."

**Al-Shar': 'Positively' Prepared for Commitment***JN2811084595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 28 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] In his speech at the Barcelona Conference yesterday evening, Israeli Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq called on the Syrian foreign minister to make peace with Israel. Baraq explained to the conferees the new Israeli Government's position on peace. He reiterated the word peace, stressing Israel's readiness to achieve peace with Syria, but without mentioning Israel's readiness to withdraw. Baraq added that peace is of strategic importance to both Israel and Syria, and constitutes a major and permanent contribution to achieving a full and firm peace in the Middle East. He said the challenge lies in the need for each party to understand the security needs of the other.

In an additional paragraph to Syria's speech, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' replied: If what Israeli Foreign Minister General Baraq says is a commitment before this conference and reflects willingness to translate it into practice, then Syria is prepared, very positively, to commit itself to full peace for full withdrawal, reinforced by arrangements that guarantee equal [mutasawi] security for both parties. In this case, he said, a peace agreement can be reached within the next few months.

**Israel, Syria Said Holding 'Secret Channel' Talks***TA2811093795 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Nov 95 pp 1, 23*

[Report by Shim'on Schiffer in Barcelona]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israel and Syria have discreetly begun checking the positions in the negotiations through a secret channel. Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir has been put in charge of this channel on behalf of Prime Minister Shim'on Peres.

Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq is one of the few people who have been let in on this move.

High-ranking political sources noted last night that Savir, the coordinator of the peace process on the Israeli side, has been holding lengthy talks with a senior Syrian figure in a European capital over the last few days. Staffers in Savir's office refused to comment on the report.

Nevertheless, it has been learned that messages relayed to the Syrians over the last few days noted that a meeting between Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad is seen as an essential move toward a breakthrough in the negotiations. [passage omitted]

**'Arafat, Baraq Discuss Implementation of Principles***JN2811075495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 28 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] A three-hour meeting between His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq, held on the sidelines of the Euro-Mediterranean Barcelona conference, was concluded at dawn today. President 'Arafat and Baraq discussed implementing the agreement on the second stage of the Declaration of Principles and issues pertaining to the Israeli occupation troop withdrawal from Palestinian cities and the deployment of Palestinian forces therein.

After the meeting, Baraq reiterated that Israel will proceed with implementing the agreements signed with the National Authority. He noted the importance of supporting infrastructure in Palestine.

President 'Arafat had earlier delivered a speech at the Barcelona conference, in which he called for a swift implementation of peace agreements. He linked peace to prosperity and economic development and raising the standards of living. He indicated that Palestinian-Israeli peace requires a fine economic balance that ensures its firmness and permanence.

President 'Arafat asked the participants in the conference to contribute to reconstructing and rehabilitating infrastructure and strengthening the components of the Palestinian economy.

President 'Arafat invited the participants to take part in the bimillennial celebrations of Christ's birth in the city of Bethlehem. The celebrations will be held for the first time in history under the auspices of the National Authority.

**Lebanese Foreign Minister Addresses Conference***NC2711192795 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Euro-Mediterranean Conference opened in Barcelona this afternoon. Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana opened the first session of the conference on account of his country is the current chairman of the EU.

Delivering Lebanon's speech, Minister Buwayz asserted Lebanon's commitment to pressing ahead toward a just, comprehensive, and genuine peace. He also asserted that Lebanon's sovereignty and independence are two basic conditions for it to play its regional and international role as a base for dialogue and convergence.



He said it is unreasonable for the Barcelona conference's agenda not to include the peace process and UN resolutions.

**Wants UN Resolutions Stressed**

NC2711152395 *Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic*  
1400 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The [EU-Mediterranean] Barcelona conference will begin at 1630 Beirut time. Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz is leading the Lebanese delegation. According to a European source in Madrid, two major questions continue to obstruct an agreement on the final communique: the definition of terrorism and free trade.

Minister Buwayz has stressed the need for the Barcelona conference's final communique to include an explicit reference to either the UN resolutions or the land-for-peace principle. Minister Buwayz added: While we acknowledge that the Barcelona conference is not required to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, it would not be acceptable for the conference to settle for less than the minimum requirements of the peace process and the UN resolutions. He underlined the role of Lebanon in linking the European and Mediterranean countries.

**Islamic Affairs**

**Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 17 Nov**  
NC2311082895

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 17 November edition of the Arabic language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

**CONTENTS:**

1. 'Partisans of God' Statement on Riyadh Bombing
2. Riyadh Explosion Seen Expressing Rejection of U.S. Presence
3. 'Conflicting' Testimonies Reported in Muslim Brotherhood Case
4. Journalists Reject Military Trials for Civilians
5. Chief Editor's Trial Deferred, Law Contested
6. Working Group Urges Neutral State Position During Elections
7. Party Secretary, Candidate on Vote Rigging
8. Security Services Obstruct Islamist Seminar
9. Demonstrations, Strike Reported in Universities
10. Labor Party Candidates Come Under Fire
11. 'Basic Point' in Electoral Program Outlined

**'PARTISANS OF GOD' STATEMENT ON RIYADH BOMBING**

The paper publishes on page 3 the 300-word "text" of a statement "faxed to the paper" by the "Militant Partisans of God Organization" claiming responsibility for the "Riyadh bombing" and setting out its demands.

**RIYADH EXPLOSION SEEN EXPRESSING REJECTION OF U.S. PRESENCE**

A 2,000-word report by Muhammad Jamal 'Arafah on pages 1 and 3 sums up foreign media reports on three organizations that claimed responsibility for the explosion at the headquarters of the U.S. military mission in Riyadh.

'Arafah refers to "reports dispatched by foreign news agency correspondents from Saudi Arabia and various Gulf countries in November last year, talking about growing popular resentment, particularly in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, toward the American presence in the Gulf."

According to the report, "the major scholars and preachers" who found the presence of non-Muslims on the holy land of Hijaz "improper" were "dismissed" or "jailed" by the Saudi authorities. Of these, the report mentions "Shaykhs Safar al-Hawali and Salman al-'Udah."

Citing the Saudi opposition, 'Arafah says the attack was "expected, because of the Saudi Government's approach to ruling, the way it deals with the people, its oppression of reformers, and its detention and jailing of legitimate leading figures."

'Arafah notes the "obstinacy" of the American response to the incident, saying it confirms that despite what happened the U.S. presence in the region will continue, to protect vital American interests in the region.

Citing statements by the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights, CDLR, the Militant Partisans of God, and the Islamic Change Movement, 'Arafah deduces that the "primary reason" for the Riyadh explosion is "rejection of the U.S. presence in the Gulf and hostility to U.S. interests."

On the same page, page 3, appears the 400-word "text" of a statement "faxed to the paper" by the Saudi Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights after the explosion.

**'CONFLICTING' TESTIMONIES REPORTED IN MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD CASE**

An unattributed 300-word report on pages 1 and 8 talks of "conflicting testimonies by State Security officers testifying in the Muslim Brotherhood case."



According to the report the officers "admitted that they had no warrants when they searched and arrested the Muslim Brothers and that the exhibits were sealed at the State Security headquarters without the knowledge of the defendants." The defendants said the testifying officers were not the officers who arrested them, the report says.

Many defendants had documented alibis refuting the accusation that they were taking part in alleged meetings.

#### **JOURNALISTS REJECT MILITARY TRIALS FOR CIVILIANS**

A 300-word report by Khalid Yunus on page 1 says the Press Association held a meeting on 15 November at which journalists denounced the referral of colleague Salah-'Abd-al-Maqsud to a military court and his being deprived of his constitutional and lawful rights.

#### **CHIEF EDITOR'S TRIAL DEFERRED, LAW CONTESTED**

A 400-word report by Dawud Hasan on pages 1 and 8 says the Court of Misdemeanors has deferred until 20 December a hearing in the libel case lodged against AL-SHA'B Chief Editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn by the interior minister's son.

AL-SHA'B's defense team requested the deferral to read the case files and to contest the constitutionality of Law No. 93 for 1995, according to which Husayn is being tried, the report says.

It adds that Ibrahim Nafi', chairman of the Press Association, took Majdi Husayn's side and submitted a memorandum to the court contesting the same law.

#### **WORKING GROUP URGES NEUTRAL STATE POSITION DURING ELECTIONS**

An unattributed 150-word report on page 1 reveals that the London-based Egyptian Working Group has issued a statement appealing to President Mubarak to "oblige the State's executive organs to be neutral during the electoral process so that the elections can honestly express the sentiments of the Egyptian people."

The statement denounced the "security services' approach to university students, which represents a crime against Egypt as a whole," and called on the president to intervene to "rectify conditions at the universities."

The statement asserts that "the referral of civilians to military courts violates the law and the Constitution."

The statement also denounces the government's "campaign against the Egyptian Independent Committee monitoring the elections."

#### **PARTY SECRETARY, CANDIDATE ON VOTE RIGGING**

In a 5,000-word article on page 5, Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn slams the "ruling party" and the prime minister, accusing the latter of "lying" to the public about the honesty of the electoral process and about the economy.

He opens his article by refuting President Mubarak's remarks at a news conference with the Romanian president. The president had emphasized that "the government never interferes in the elections, which are supervised by the judiciary." Stating that there is no judicial supervision, Husayn explains that "there is a symbolic participation by a limited number of judges who can do nothing about what happens."

Husayn compares the Romanian vision of the elections and the reality in Egypt. He cites the Romanian president's remark that the "parliament is currently discussing how the electoral process can be organized among the different parties." He then states that the "dominant party in Egypt insists on staying in power by force and by falsifying the elections." "While the parties in Romania and in other East European states take part in setting out guarantees, the proposals our parties put forward were thrown in the garbage can," he says, adding that Romania did not hesitate to seek the help of international experts and observers, while in Egypt they refuse to do that "for fear of being exposed in a scandal." He notes that the "people in power" refuse to let a local committee of "virtuous men" monitor the elections in Egypt.

'Adil Husayn notes that the Romanian media "were committed to a balanced presentation of views and news," giving no party more than any other and taking no side.

Turning to the prime minister, he maintains that 'Atif Sidqi replied to AL-AHRAM's questions in a 10 November interview with "a set of raw and exposed lies." He explains that the prime minister denied rigging went on in the previous elections, ignoring "80 rulings by the court of appeals proving rigging in the 1990 elections." He states that the prime minister also lied about "spending government money to support the National Democratic Party candidates."

He cites other parts of the interview to claim that the prime minister lied about the government's plans to raise prices and sell off the public sector.

Husayn then moves on to the electoral campaign to show what he calls the government's bias to the National Democratic Party candidates. He says voters are forced to listen to "unceasing talk" in the media

about the ruling party's "achievements," while the candidates of the Labor Party and the Islamic current are presented as "losers and castoffs." He says: Failing to get to the public through the official media, the opposition candidates had no choice but to address their public in the constituencies. "But you announced from the outset that organizing rallies in pavilions is prohibited and that staging marches to greet the candidates and publicize their names is prohibited," Husayn says. He explains that the government turned down a request to use school playgrounds, youth centers and courts, theaters, and mosques to address their voters. He also says they were prevented from meeting with workers in their companies or with people in clubs and that the posters they hung were torn down and the statements they tried to distribute were seized and the people distributing them were arrested. He asks the government: "What other media did you leave us to contact and address our voters?"

Husayn then states his personal case as the Labor Party candidate in Madinat al-Nasr and Heliopolis. "The people in power insist on putting me with those who are accorded special care. It seems that my defeat before 'Abd-al-Mun'im 'Imarah has become one of the state's higher goals," he says, noting that "restrictions" on his movements are "exaggerated and tight," while all the doors are open to the National Democratic Party candidates. He refers to reports about "huge funds" being taken from the Higher Council for Youth and Sports to spend on its chairman 'Abd-al-Mun'im 'Imarah's campaign.

He then talks about "the dirtiest ever falsification of votes" in his constituency, claiming that 27,000 voters who do not belong to the constituency were registered in its books to guarantee triumph for his rival, 'Imarah. He calls on the prime minister to investigate before the judiciary does.

Husayn says he "very clearly" sees the government's determination to claim victory for its candidates. That is why the government wants to falsify votes in all the constituencies and why it "legitimizes all crimes" to guarantee success for its candidates.

Noting that Madinat al-Nasr is the president's constituency, he appeals to the president not to cast his vote there, "to keep the temperature at its normal level and to give the impression that the government is being neutral."

But Husayn says he has faith in victory, because the people in his constituency "support the advocates of truth and the honest mujahidin."

He urges the people to "move, get angry, and refuse the insult," to stand like a "strong wall in the face of the National Democratic Party."

#### SECURITY SERVICES OBSTRUCT ISLAMIST SEMINAR

An unattributed 50-word report on page 8 says that the security services refused to honor permission granted to Sayf-al-Islam Hasan al-Banna to hold an electoral seminar in line with measures to restrict and provoke Islamist candidates.

#### DEMONSTRATIONS, STRIKE REPORTED IN UNIVERSITIES

A 600-word report by 'Ala' al-Bahhar and Tariq 'Abd-al-Hamid on page 8 discusses "the continuing student uprising" at Egyptian universities to protest the exclusion of Islamist candidates from the student union elections and the arrest of "scores of students" and to demand the abrogation of emergency laws and the press law and the referral of civilians to military courts.

The report talks of demonstrations at the "al-Fayyum branch of Cairo University." According to the report, the security forces attacked the students with clubs and water hoses and surrounded the colleges with armored vehicles.

The report refers to a "general strike" for the fourth day running in the Faculty of Science, al-Mansurah University, to protest the arrest of four students.

In Aswan, students at the Higher Energy Institute organized a peaceful demonstration to protest the university's refusal to respond to their demand to turn the institute into a university college.

#### LABOR PARTY CANDIDATES COME UNDER FIRE

A 100-word report by Mujahid al-'Arusi on page 8 says that National Democratic Party candidates and their supporters in Imbabah fired shots at Labor Party candidates 'Abd-al-Hamid Barakat and Mustafa al-Wardani as they led the "Islamic alliance march."

#### WRITER ANALYZES 'STUDENT UPRISING'

A 2,000-word analysis by 'Abd-al-Hayy Muhammad looks at "the student uprising in the face of government bombs."

Muhammad writes that "since 16 October, the Egyptian universities have seen an overwhelming student uprising involving tens of thousands, lamenting the death of freedom and democracy, the oppression of freedom

inside the university, and the tyranny of the government, represented in military trials and ill-reputed laws."

The writer notes that "the large-scale arrest campaigns have so far reaped over 500 students," that 900 students have been referred to disciplinary committees, and that 15,000 students were excluded from the student union elections.

Analyzing the reasons for the "student uprising," the writer talks about "restricting serious activities and making room for Horus Society's wanton parties." He also talks about prohibiting discussion of the government's corruption in lecture halls, the prevention of veiled students from entering the university, and a ban on any political activity in the university.

The writer outlines student demands: Lifting restrictions on university students, recognizing the full independence of universities, abrogating all ill-reputed laws, calling off military trials of civilians, opening the door to jihad before all students, and severing all ties with the Zionist enemy.

He finally remarks that all this "government terrorism and oppression led to this uprising, which will not stop unless a sound democratic life is established in Egypt, in and outside the universities."

#### **'BASIC POINT' IN ELECTORAL PROGRAM OUTLINED**

The last page, page 12, presents an outline of a "basic point" in the Labor Party's electoral program: "Exhaustive Islamic Reform."

The bold-type 400-word outline states that "the religious family is primarily responsible for raising struggling, creative, and productive youths who believe in God and whose conduct is governed by faith." It stresses that the media "should observe honesty in their news reporting, stick to virtuous values, and represent all views."

The program outline emphasizes that education is "the religious duty of every citizen and should be available free of charge." It also emphasizes the "poor people's right to a healthy home" and the need to employ youthful energy to enhance production and overcome unemployment.

Saying "no to a rising cost of living," the outline stresses the need to raise standards of living through the "serious development of agriculture and industry."

The program states that preventing foreign domination is vital for the nation's recovery. "We should neither borrow from them nor sell them our projects," it says.

"All this requires an exemplary government that fights unlawful earnings and extravagance and is answerable to the people," it says.

The party's program notes its stance against torture, arrests, and military trials. It urges freedom of publication and freedom to form parties, syndicates, and associations.

The program stresses the need to "limit the president of the Republic's powers" and to elect a president from several candidates through free voting. It also stresses the need to fight the rigging of parliamentary elections.

Stating that "Zionism is our primary and direct enemy," the program stresses the need to fight political and economic schemes and, as it says, liberate Jerusalem, which is an obligatory duty.

The program stresses that "the unity of the Arab and Muslim nation is a must, for which unity between Egypt and both Libya and Sudan should be a prologue." It also highlights the need for "an Egyptian Islamic military power that terrifies God's enemy and ours."

Finally, the program stresses the need to "diversify our international relations."

#### **Palestinian Affairs**

##### **Sha'th on Upcoming 'Arafat-Baraq Barcelona Meeting**

JN2711201695 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*  
1900 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On the sidelines of the Barcelona conference, President Yasir 'Arafat is scheduled to meet tonight with Israeli Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, said the meeting is very important. He added: We look forward to this meeting and are ready to give Baraq full support, as we did with Peres in order to advance the peace process.

Sha'th said that the Barcelona conference is very important. He said Palestine was invited to the conference as a full-fledged member and that it will take advantage of its participation in this conference to draw up future plans.

##### **PNC Calls Meetings in Ramallah, Gaza**

JN2711215095 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*  
1900 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Salim al-Za'nun, acting speaker of the Palestine National Council (PNC), has asked PNC



members who are in the West Bank to attend a meeting to be held in the city of Ramallah on 29 November. The meeting will debate a draft election law and the form of the future relationship between the PNC and the would-be Palestinian Legislative Council.

Al-Za'nun also asked PNC members who are in the Gaza Strip to attend a similar meeting to be held on 1 December at the Legislative Council building in Gaza city. The meeting will address the same issues.

#### **APF Statement Urges Boycott of Elections**

*JN2711205695 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Nov 95*

["Text" of statement issued by the Alliance of Palestinian Forces in Damascus; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. A significant political statement issued by the Alliance of Palestinian Forces [APF]:

No to the self-rule administration council's elections. The Central Command of the APF held a meeting to examine the implications and dangers inherent in the self-rule council elections which are scheduled to be held in accordance with the Oslo agreement and the draft electoral law issued by the self-rule administration authority. The APF announces to our people and to the Arab, Islamic, and world public opinion that it rejects and boycotts these elections, because they seek:

1. To give a false popular and political legitimacy to the liquidatory Oslo-Cairo-Taba agreement. They seek to elect a council that will be entrusted with the task of implementing and legalizing this agreement, which derives its authority not from the people, but rather from the Zionist military rule. This agreement will liquidate the Palestinian people's national goals of liberation, repatriation, and full national independence.
2. To give legitimacy to keeping settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and to legalize the Zionist sovereignty and security control of the Palestinian territories.
3. To leave the future of Jerusalem prone to the Judaization and settlement schemes with the aim of emptying it from its Palestinian residents.
4. To undermine the Palestinian people's national unity and the unity of their land and cause through turning a blind eye to the question of refugees, displaced persons, prisoners, and expelees — these categories account for more than 75 percent of the total number of the Palestinian people.

5. To abrogate the Palestinian National Charter and the PLO and its institutions.

The APF believes that these elections will not be free, fair, or democratic, given they are conducted under the occupation and away from the Palestinian people and their national forces and figures. Therefore, the APF urges our Palestinian people in the occupied homeland and their national forces, institutions, and figures to reject and boycott these elections in terms of nomination and voting. The APF condemns all those who participate in these elections and holds them fully accountable for the catastrophic results these elections will bring to the Palestinian people and their national cause.

The APF also calls on the masses of our Palestinian people in the homeland and the diaspora to oppose these elections through holding popular conferences, rallies, seminars, and other activities. It calls on all the dynamic forces of our Arab and Islamic nation and the honest people in the world to back the struggle of our people against these elections so that they will achieve their goals of liberation, repatriations, self-determination, and full independence on equal footing with the rest of the peoples who gained their freedom and independence.

#### **Hamas, PA Trade Insults; Reconciliation in Jeopardy**

*MM2711161395 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Nov 95 p 3*

[Unattributed report: "Hamas and Palestinian Authority Exchange Accusations Over Thwarting Reconciliation Efforts"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — The Islamic Resistance Movement, "Hamas," yesterday accused the Palestinian Authority of "procrastinating openly and directly" as regards the dialogue which should have started between them after the talks conducted in Khartoum by a mediation delegation from Gaza and a Hamas delegation headed by Muhammad Nazzal, Hamas' representative in Jordan.

Hamas leveled its accusations at some groups in the Palestinian Authority which it said are determined to waste this historic reconciliation opportunity because of their wish for the tense atmosphere to continue.

Hamas condemned the arrest last week of Ahmad Nimr Hamdan, urging his release. The Palestinian police arrested Nimr Hamdan on charges of calling for the Authority's officials to be murdered the way Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was murdered. Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for Hamas, said that "the Authority's aim is to circumvent Hamas through certain local tactics which I refuse to reveal.



It, that is the Authority, is very keen to ensure that the period from now until 20 January, the date for the elections, passes smoothly, hence giving the impression that the Authority supports dialogue even though it is currently closing all doors to dialogue and thwarting any serious attempt to initiate it."

For his part, an official from the Authority has accused Hamas of trying to thwart reconciliation efforts by setting unacceptable preconditions, including the demand for releasing Sayyid Abu-Musamih, a Hamas leader currently held in prison.

On Nimr Hamdan's arrest the official, who asked to remain anonymous, said that Nimr's arrest occurred after he had received several warnings urging him to refrain from instigating citizens against the Palestinian Authority. The official said that Nimr exceeded the limits last week when he called in the Friday sermon for the dialogue between the PLO and Hamas to be suspended. In fact, he also called for Palestinian Authority officials to be murdered the way Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was murdered because of territory concessions. Hamas said in a statement that the Palestinian Authority is staging "a campaign of repression and terrorism" against the Islamic movement through arrests and torture in the Palestinian Authority's jails and cells — which could lead to the collapse of reconciliation efforts between the two sides.

**Islamic Salvation Party Bureau Members Named**  
MM2711151995 *London AL-HAYAH in Arabic*  
27 Nov 95 p 4

[Report by Husayn Hijazi: "AL-HAYAH Publishes List of 13 Members of Salvation Party's Political Bureau"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza — AL-HAYAH has obtained a copy of the application presented by the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, to the Palestinian Authority [PA] to establish a political party called the "Islamic National Salvation [al-Khalas] Party," which was to have been made public last Thursday in addition to the list of members of the party's Political Bureau. Hamas leaders and other sources have explained to AL-HAYAH why the party founders delayed the announcement of its formation.

As a PA initiative aimed at containing the impact of the decision to arrest Shaykh Ahmad Nimr — which had given rise to some speculation on relations between the PA and Hamas during the previous two days — al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, the PA secretary general for presidential affairs, accompanied by Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar and a number of Hamas leaders, paid a goodwill visit to Shaykh Nimr in prison during the night of Saturday-Sunday, with the intention of

getting him out of jail. However, as joint PA and Hamas sources told AL-HAYAH, Shaykh Nimr refused to show any flexibility and said that he prefers to remain in prison, and that he opposes the Oslo agreement and its ramifications. The matter ended in the failure of the attempt at releasing him from jail.

PA circles say that Shaykh Nimr's arrest followed the incitement contained in a sermon he delivered recently, and has no connection with his opposition to the Oslo agreement or any opinions which show his opposition, as long as this is confined to expressing positions and does not become incitement to murder. Some Hamas circles also agree with the view that Shaykh Nimr is showing some hardening in his views on the dialogue between the PA and Hamas, and that he has recently seemed to oppose the direction that Hamas is trying to follow.

Shaykh Nimr's arrest has caused some reactions in Hamas circles which support him. The day before yesterday, they issued a statement condemning his arrest, and this clearly caused some displeasure in the PA, which asked Hamas to repudiate the statement, especially since it was issued at a time when relations between the two sides are passing through a positive phase.

PA sources told AL-HAYAH that it is unlikely that the statement, which they described as an attempt by some Hamas elements to appease Shaykh Ahmad Nimr, will have any effect or negative repercussions on the positive atmosphere pervading relations between the two sides. The sources added that the PA's position is "positive and serious with regard to preserving the atmosphere existing between the two sides, and for paving the way for the success of the reconciliation dialogue" due to be held next month in Cairo. 'Abd-al-Rahim told AL-HAYAH that his visit — in the company of some Hamas leaders — to Shaykh Nimr in jail the day before yesterday, with the aim of releasing him, came in this context. He also hinted that there is an intention to release Shaykh Sayyid Abu-Musamih soon, in order to enable him to participate in the dialogue as a member of the Hamas delegation.

It seems that the obstacle to Shaykh Abu-Musamih's release is the two-year sentence imposed on him, which would require Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat himself to grant him an amnesty should the decision to release him be taken, and bearing in mind that 'Arafat has not yet approved the sentence imposed on Abu-Musamih.

There were new attempts yesterday to explain the reasons given by the Islamic National Salvation Party for delaying the announcement of its formation. Some

PA sources have expressed the view that the delay came as part of the attempt by Hamas to bring into the party's Political Bureau some other leaders who have adopted moderate positions in the past. In this context, there is talk about figures like Khadr Muhjiz and Mahmud al-Habbash, but the dialogue between the two sides has not been completed yet. However, some other circles say that the delay in the announcement of the party's formation was an expression by some Hamas elements of their fear that the announcement of the party's formation now — as previously decided and prior to the start of the negotiations in Cairo between Hamas and the PA — would weaken Hamas' bargaining position in this dialogue.

The circles add that if the party is formed, and as it represents 95 percent of the body of Hamas, then in effect, if it agrees on all the points requested by the PA, this would mean the same as Hamas agreeing, and would mean tacit agreement to everything that the PA wants.

Therefore, these circles believe that the reason for the delay to announce the formation of the party is twofold: first, to use the time to negotiate with previous Hamas dissidents and thus to broaden the party's base to include the maximum number of supporters, and second as a means to apply pressure on the PA before the forthcoming dialogue with it.

Dr. al-Zahhar, however, has revealed to AL-HAYAH that the delay was due to a wish expressed by the Hamas leadership in the West Bank. This is the first explanation given by an official in the Hamas leadership which goes beyond the reasons given previously and which claimed that the delay was due to "technical reasons."

In this context, AL-HAYAH has obtained a copy of the application presented by the party to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat on 18 November and the names of the Political Bureau members, signatories to the document, which says:

"Out of our keenness to build our Palestinian state, to serve its people, maintain its unity, and provide the national necessities, and with regard to the higher Palestinian interests...we have agreed to form a Palestinian political party working according to Islamic principles and on the basis of consultation and respect for ideological freedom and political pluralism, and which takes political reality into account with an open mind...and this in accordance with the law in force in the PA territories."

"The Political Bureau members are:

- "— Engineer Isma'il Hasan Abu-Shanab
- "— Ahmad Muhammad al-Sa'ati

- "— Shaykh Ahmad Muhammad Bahr
- "— Shaykh Fikri Salim 'Abd-al-Latif
- "— Dr. 'Atif Ibrahim 'Adwan
- "— Pharmacist Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman Shihab
- "— Engineer Khalid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Khallaf
- "— Shaykh Yusuf 'Ali Farhat
- "— Shaykh Muhammad 'Abdallah Lafi
- "— Engineer 'Isa 'Ali al-Nashshar
- "— Engineer Ahmad Wadi' al-Agha
- "— Sister Jamilah 'Abdallah al-Shanti
- "— Sister Mariam 'Ali al-Nashshar."

It should be noted that this is the first time that names of female leaders have been made public by the Palestinian Islamic Movement since the party's political bureau comprises two women among its leadership.

#### Jihad Leader Shallah Seeks 'Unity or Death'

MM2711164195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic  
27 Nov 95 p 5

[Interview with Dr. Ramadan 'Abdallah Shallah, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, by Zuhayr Qusaybati and Ibrahim Humaydi in Damascus; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [AL-HAYAH] How will the assassination of al-Shaqaqi affect the attitude and decisionmaking of the Islamic Jihad Movement [IJM]?

[[Shallah] The assassination of Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi has strengthened the movement's unity and solidarity and increased the masses' support for it. Like all the nation's martyrs, his blood will shed light on the movement's course toward ever greater fulfillment of its objectives.

True, by virtue of his position and personality, the martyr's role was the more prominent in political guidance, intellectual excellence, and in following up the implementation of decisions and ideas on a daily basis, and although he will be absent in body, his policy, ideology, and political line will remain. As regards decisionmaking, that has not been affected because the movement has constitutional institutions and mechanisms for discussions and consultations.

[AL-HAYAH] Who do you point your accusing finger at for the assassination of al-Shaqaqi (Abu-Ibrahim)?

[Shallah] Israel and its intelligence organ (Mosad) were the only party which planned and carried out the assassination of the martyred leader ....

[AL-HAYAH] But some have claimed that certain Arab parties were involved in the operation.

[Shallah] I do not believe so. We have no information that Arab, regional, or international parties participated

or provided Mosad with facilities for the implementation of that cowardly operation.

[AL-HAYAH] Do you intend to initiate a comprehensive internal reconciliation that would close the book on the movement's differences in the past period?

[Shallah] The martyr's words in the final days of his life were that, in its latest phase, the UM is more cohesive and solid than at any time in the past. That is a fact which we witnessed while he was alive and which became even truer after his martyrdom. What is strange is the attempt to cause a clamor and exaggerate matters which have no effect on the movement's bases and cadres.

[AL-HAYAH] What role do the movement's leaderships and cadres play in decisionmaking?

[Shallah] Everything in the movement is subject to dialogue and consultation, except if there is any violation of the movement's strategy and general principles. Everyone has a right to disagree. We do not force anything on anyone. Views are shared, taking into consideration the ethics of disagreement and advice in Islam. If we uphold the rule "no coercion in religion," why should that not be the case in politics?

[AL-HAYAH] Did the leaderships inside [the occupied territory] make their acceptance of your assuming the position of the movement's secretary general conditional on reinstatement of those among them who had been dismissed by a Shura Council decision?

[Shallah] It is true that those inside [the occupied territory] have their own views, which are in harmony with the constant principles and strategy of the movement, but the appointment of the secretary general is done through consultations not conditions. I believe that approaching the matter in this manner is tantamount to sedition.

[AL-HAYAH] To what extent has al-Shaqaqi's absence affected the UM's internal situation?

[Shallah] We miss him very much. A great leader like him cannot be replaced but his blood has strengthened our position, solidarity, and sense of responsibility, and it prompted everyone to make more efforts, endeavors, and sacrifice. As he, may God have mercy on him, used to say: The blow that does not kill me revives me.

[AL-HAYAH] But he had exclusive responsibility for many files, didn't he?

[Shallah] That is an exaggeration. The martyr used to work jointly with his brothers on all affairs. Consultation and joint work are the movement's rule which has controlled and continues to control its march. Further-

more, the question of files is a mobile one, and it is natural for his successor to follow them up or delegate some to others, as the martyr used to do.

[AL-HAYAH] The statement announcing the death of al-Shaqaqi threatened to carry out operations abroad and to launch major operations "against the Zionists wherever they may be." Is the UM still determined to do that or did Yitzhak Rabin's assassination reshuffle the cards?

[Shallah] The movement's strategy has always been to confine the armed action to action against Zionist enemy targets inside Palestine. In reference to what is being said about taking the battle abroad, reshuffling the cards, or anything of that sort, that question should be addressed to the enemy leaders who made the decision to assassinate Dr. al-Shaqaqi, an unarmed civilian and foreigner, in the streets of Malta.

[AL-HAYAH] Will the movement overlook the commitment not to hit Israeli civilians inside [the occupied territory]?

[Shallah] Our mujahidin proceed in accordance with the principles of the true Islamic religion which are held in high regard untouched by any principles of any other creeds. Our brothers in the "Mujahidin Islamic Forces" (QSM) strike in accordance with the instructions of their civilian leaders inside. They hit military or settlement targets that are chosen very carefully, but the complications of movement within a military society such as the Zionist society might sometimes lead to limited civilian casualties. In the final analysis, this is a war in which we are the party whose sons, old people, and children were massacred by the Israeli Army and the settlers, even in houses of worship as in the case of the massacres in al-Aqsa mosque and al-Ibrahimi mosque in Hebron.

[AL-HAYAH] What do you think of the claim that Peres' Israel is weaker than Rabin's Israel and might, therefore, accept what it used to reject?

[Shallah] That is not true because policy in Israel does not depend on one particular person. It is the work of an institution and it does not change with the disappearance of one person. In Rabin's government, Peres did not make the final decisions but he had more ability to move in a way reflecting his sometimes changing moods, as a part of some kind of distribution of roles to leave more room for maneuvers. The situation is now different. Peres will try to maintain a degree of intransigence to ensure the Labor Party's internal unity. The central trend in that party is that of the "hawks" whose stars are rising with incredible speed, such as (Ehud) Barak who has risen to the post of interior minister and then foreign minister since joining the party four months ago. He is



tinged for the party leadership. In brief, I believe that Peres' government will not be different from Rabin's government.

[AL-HAYAH] How will you tackle the new situation, with the Israeli Army's redeployment in West Bank areas?

[Shallah] The situation in the West Bank is more complicated than the situation in the Gaza Strip. Under the provisions of the Oslo and Taba agreements, the Israeli occupation Army will remain in the West Bank on a greater and more extensive scale than in the Gaza Strip, and the same applies to the settlements. Redeployment means reorganization not elimination of the occupation, and that dictates that we continue our jihad as long as the occupation or any of its manifestations continue.

[AL-HAYAH] The UM will not participate in the Palestinian elections. Do you not believe that the existence of an elected body would be a source of strength for the Palestinian political position, meaning that the elections are a democratic means of struggle along the path of complete exercise of self-determination?

[Shallah] These elections have no popular basis. The source of their legitimacy is the agreements with the Israeli enemy, on which the people were not consulted from the beginning. They are being held in the absence of national sovereignty and under Israeli hegemony and sovereignty. Israel decides everything to do with the council to be elected — its nature, its tasks, its powers, and the number of its members — and everything about the election process and its conditions and prerequisites, the aim being to produce a council with limited powers subject to Israel's will and geared to fulfilling its wishes and serving its interests which are supported internationally. That gives Israel the right to participate in the Palestinian people's self-determination and in charting their future.

These elections precipitate division and partition of the Palestinian people. They are confined to the people of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, ignoring the future of some 4 million Palestinians in the diaspora, not to mention the 1948 Palestinians. The Jerusalem inhabitants' ridiculous participation in the elections by correspondence, through the mail, denotes recognition that they are foreigners living on non-Palestinian territory, which means confirmation of the annexation and Judaization of Jerusalem.

In brief, these elections are futile. Their aim is to give the Palestinian Authority [PA] legitimacy. The body they will produce will be governed in advance by the agreements with Israel, which sees no more important

task for the self-rule authority than preservation of Israeli security through repression of the Palestinian people and the pursuit of the strugglers and the mujahidin. The elections will not be a source of strength for the Palestinian political position in the face of the U.S.-Israeli alliance. On the contrary, Palestinian people's participation in the elections would be interpreted by Israel as a sign of willingness to give up and an indication that they are no longer a factor to be reckoned with. The repressed popular will will be reflected in the ballot boxes surrounded by Israeli settlements. Israel will pay no attention to that. What Israel fears is the will for jihad and resistance.

[AL-HAYAH] What is the fate of the unsigned "agreement" between the UM and the PA and what effect does it have on the freeze on military operations in the autonomy areas?

[Shallah] There is no agreement between us and the Authority.

[AL-HAYAH] What are the limits of military action and where does your "jihad" program end?

[Shallah] Our military action is a result of the occupation. Military action will continue as long as the occupation continues. As regards our jihad program, it is not just military action. We are not an armed gang. We have a comprehensive Islamic plan and a cultural vision. And in that sense, it cannot end.

[AL-HAYAH] In your view, what are the limits of the occupation? The 1948 territory or the territory occupied in 1967?

[Shallah] If the occupation is just within the boundaries of the 1967 territories, then who do the 1948 territories belong to? Until recently, Israel had not defined its borders. We know Israel's borders now to be the historical borders of Palestine, all of which must be returned to its real people and owners.

[AL-HAYAH] Are you calling for the destruction of the state of Israel? Do you believe that is possible?

[Shallah] What matters to us is the return of our usurped territory, Palestine. As to how that is to be achieved, that is another matter. True, the historical circumstances are different, but why was it possible to destroy Palestine and uproot its people, that dream which the Jews and the Zionists had for generations and never despaired of fulfilling?

[AL-HAYAH] What would be the fate of the Israelis if Palestine was regained?

[Shallah] Anyone who reads the history of the Jews in Islamic societies and compares their conditions then

and their conditions in Europe would know the answer to that question.

[AL-HAYAH] How?

[Shallah] We would treat them better than the West treated them. I stress that the problem of world Jewry should not be solved at our expense. We do not target the Jews because they are Jews but because they did us an injustice by usurping our territory. When the West tried to solve the problem of the Jews in Europe and to find an answer to the Jewish question, it created a new problem which became known as the Palestinian question. That is perhaps a reminder of the Jewish way of answering one question with another.

[AL-HAYAH] If Hamas participates in the Palestinian elections that would leave the IJM as a Palestinian Islamic movement on its own in the full boycott of the Authority and the autonomy institutions.

[Shallah] Hamas, as an Islamic resistance movement, will not participate in the elections. That is the position of the brothers in Hamas, declared in an official statement which they have continually reaffirmed to us. We never thought that we were alone in the arena. Our people are one of the most vivid phenomena in the region and they always know who represents their aspirations, embraces their concerns, and struggles for them. Despite the state of decline, our Arab and Islamic nations have not and will not forget Palestine or give up Jerusalem.

[AL-HAYAH] Do you still reject dialogue with the PA?

[Shallah] What dialogue and what about? If the dialogue is to be about peace with Israel and forfeiting Palestine, then there is no such possibility and it would be futile because giving up Palestine is not a matter of opinion. It is the cardinal sin.

[AL-HAYAH] Some leaders in the Authority said that it is holding contacts and dialogues with all the Palestinian forces without exception.

[Shallah] Contact with the Authority, if it did occur, would be related to the field and the repercussions of the coercion and arrest of our brothers by the Authority's organs, but there is no political dialogue between us and the Authority. The recent meeting held in Gaza and attended by all forces to discuss the parties law and the elections was not attended by the IJM.

[AL-HAYAH] Has the IJM set conditions for dialogue with the Authority?

[Shallah] Our condition for meeting with any political force in the arena is, in one word, Palestine. We would meet with anyone seeking liberation of all its territory

and would turn away from anyone who forfeits an inch of that territory.

[AL-HAYAH] Where do you draw the line between political and field dialogue?

[Shallah] Field dialogue is what is dictated by the circumstances to deal with the effects of a problem or to prevent a problem whether in relation to security matters such as issues of the detainees and prisoners or day-to-day living conditions such as bans on travel or work or any other repressive measures taken by the Authority against our people, away from the political program.

[AL-HAYAH] If the dialogue between the Authority and Hamas succeeds and Hamas is persuaded to participate in the Palestinian institutions, should one then expect the dissolution of the declared alliance between Hamas and the IJM?

[Shallah] We are an Islamic political movement and we are interested in maintaining our relations with all parties under the roof of our principles. Our relations with Palestinian forces which adhere to the constant principles of the Palestinian people are relations of fraternity and comradeship in the same trench. Our relations with Hamas go beyond the temporary political position because they are based on a strong bond which derives its strength from stronger commitment to the Islamic line. They are subject to that line which governs the actions of the brothers in Hamas just as it governs our actions in the IJM. Our work is governed by Islamic controls.

Martyr Abu-Ibrahim, may God's blessings be upon him, used to describe the relationship between the IJM and Hamas by saying that the two movements came out of the same womb.

[AL-HAYAH] Much has been said about the possibility or idea of forming a party that would stem from the IJM or be a wing of it. Is that idea still valid, in your view?

[Shallah] We see no need for a party stemming from the movement or its departments because there is a need for national sovereignty under which a party would function, and that is not available. The IJM is not about to give the impression that it could be contained or absorbed politically in some context, particularly as several parties want to disarm us while we are still in the stage of national liberation. It would be useless to form a political party in such circumstances.

[AL-HAYAH] How would you define your relations with Hizballah?

[Shallah] Hizballah is an Islamic force, an ally, and a friend with whom we stand together in the Islamic trench against the Zionist enemy.

[AL-HAYAH] In what way does Iran support the IJM?

[Shallah] Iran is an Islamic state which refuses to recognize the legitimacy of the enemy who usurped Palestine. It supports our people, their cause, and their just jihad for the restoration of their rights. The Iranian aid is of a humanitarian nature and it includes helping the families of the martyrs and the wounded.

[AL-HAYAH] The region is approaching comprehensive peace. Where would the IJM headquarters be if a Syrian-Israeli agreement was signed?

[Shallah] The region is not approaching comprehensive and just peace. It is sinking deeper into Israeli peace which is planting more explosive elements and sowing the seeds of more ferocious and widespread wars.

As far as we are concerned, the movement's headquarters, presence, and weight are inside Palestine, not in Damascus. We have no official presence in Damascus. As martyr Abu-Ibrahim used to say, we travel light and our concern is continued contact with the Palestinian interior. That can be achieved from anywhere. The world today is a small village.

[AL-HAYAH] Is it true that your selection as secretary general of the movement was on al-Shaqaqi's recommendation?

[Shallah] That is not accurate. It was by election by consensus of the movement's institutions and bases everywhere, but the story of the recommendation is that two weeks after the martyrdom of the doctor (al-Shaqaqi) and my election as secretary general and as we were going through the martyr's papers and files, one of the brothers found a message addressed to me in which he said:

If I fall, you, my comrade in struggle, should take my place and carry your arms, and do not be afraid of the sight of blood dripping from my weapon, but look at my determined lips braving the wind.

These were quotations from the famous poem by Mu'in Busaysu and one of the famous songs of the Palestinian revolution. Also, when he traveled, he (al-Shaqaqi) asked me to run the affairs of the movement in his absence.

[AL-HAYAH] How do you explain your commitment to the Islamic jihad idea despite your being away from the movement's leadership and from your country and the struggle arena, as you were in the West for years?

[Shallah] Palestine is our homeland which dwells in us although we may not dwell in it. It has gone with us wherever we went since it was geographically usurped from our nation with the West's help and force of arms. My commitment to the Islamic jihad idea is a

commitment to our right to struggle and resist in order to regain our usurped rights, a right guaranteed under all laws. We will never give it up, regardless of whether we are in the East or the West.

[AL-HAYAH] What effect has the culture of the West, which describes you as a "terrorist," had on your views and what elements were strengthened by that culture?

[Shallah] I am not a terrorist. It was the West which helped the Jews exercise the ugliest forms of terrorism when it set up the state of Israel on the debris of an entire people. We occupied no land of theirs, demolished no house of theirs, nor had we shed their blood. They came to the heart of our home and did all that to us and more. The West, particularly the United States, is, as I heard from respected American professors and intellectuals, the most terrorist in the entire world. We never dropped atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki nor did we slaughter Red Indians or bring in millions of black people to be used as slaves and thrown to the whales in the sea. We were not the ones who built up Israel's military arsenal on the debris of unarmed people or who armed it with nuclear warheads. We did not initiate global and regional wars which killed millions nor did we invent the "ethnic cleansing" plague. We did not colonize France for 130 years as France did Algeria, nor did we kill 45,000 people in one day as was the case in the biggest massacre in history. Furthermore, Nazism, Fascism, and dictatorship are not products of our culture. Hitler, Mussolini, and Stalin were not born in Cairo, Damascus, or Baghdad.

Terrorism and violence are a main ingredient of the West's cultural and historical structure. The philosophical aspect of that is that profit and enhanced interests are the motives which drive the Western human being on and, accordingly, drive Western societies and cultures on. Enhancement of wealth and power in the West is the fuel which moves the wheel of life. That creates a tendency for theft, domination, exploitation, conflict, violence, and murder on individual and collective levels. The West is possessed with self-grandeur: Great Britain, great Germany, great America, and so on.

When I talk about the West I mean its governments which act like gods, and its organs, military machine, multinational companies, and ideological organizations, but that does not mean that I see all the West as evil. There are positive aspects, indeed, at the levels of scientific achievement, administrative, technical, and technological development, and human knowledge. All that could be benefited from. I have learned much from the West in that respect but I also learned not to be a captive to the Western model and not to be dazzled.



[AL-HAYAH] But you seem to concentrate on the military aspect in the growth of Western civilization, although there are other factors that helped in the realization of important human achievements. Why is that?

[Shallah] I have concentrated on the aspect of violence in Western civilization because of its connection with the question. But the elements of the Western model's victories have not changed much since the days of the old empires, from the days of Rome and Byzantium to our present day. They consisted basically of soldiers, merchants, and preachers.

Preaching today is no longer confined to ecclesiastic preaching, for there is now the more dangerous preaching of the set of Western values which are spread through the mechanism of the media and Hollywood. This preaching is based on the claim that the Western model is the only model for civilization and that the West is the center of the universe. This is evident in the relationship between man and his environment: The entire human race now operates according to the Christian calendar and fixes its time according to Greenwich. Other calendars do exist among numerous nations and peoples but they are not used in fixing the times of airline flights between London, New York, Tokyo, and Cairo. These other calendars have become only some sort of national folklore.

In short, by its achievements, the West does not mean to ensure the triumph of mankind, but its own triumph over it.

[AL-HAYAH] Has your life in the West provided you with additional factors affecting your relationship with the others, the Israelis?

[Shallah] The biggest factors in my relationship with the others are things I have learned about in my homeland, at the scene of the crime the others have carried out and continue to carry out against me. I have learned about them in the continued massacres, the crimes of killing, intimidation, and suppression which the others have committed against my family, people, and nation.

As to the West, my seeing, at close hand, the infiltration of the Jewish — indeed Israeli — influence in the West even up to the decisionmaking level, has increased my conviction that in the end Palestine will be the decisive battle between the entire world order and the Arab and Islamic forces.

[AL-HAYAH] But living in the West accustoms one to coexisting with other people and not repudiating them. Is it not so?

[Shallah] If we concede, for the sake of argument, that such a thing actually exists, it is only due to mutual benefit and mutual interest. The West is prepared to do anything to absorb others, not to coexist with them. What is being sought is the Westernization of the world, as some call it, or from the American point of view the "Americanization of the world," which was the dream of President (Theodore) Roosevelt, through the spreading of the model of "the American way of life" [words between quotemarks published in English] throughout the world via Pepsi Cola and "hamburgers."

Even more than that. The destruction and annihilation of others is justified from the West's point of view, because this will transfer others from the world of barbarism to the world of civilization, and from Eastern despotism to Western democracy. The West's coexistence and tolerance [word in English] of others is a lie that is exposed by the attitudes of the West, which could not tolerate the Muslim girls' headscarves in France.

But if what is meant here by the word "others" is Israel, then I would say that it was Israel that began by negating others, that is "us," and trying to annihilate them, in accordance with the Western logic of coexistence which is based on self-interest. If you want me to get accustomed to that and adopt it, then all I can say is that we need nothing from Israel other than that it return to us our homeland, Palestine, which it usurped. Anything else is nothing more than Western flirtation and absorption aimed at affirming our negation.

[AL-HAYAH] Western culture tends to favor dialogue and peace or the "quiet conflict" of ideas. But you have become leader of a movement that insists on the elimination of Israel.

[Shallah] I have already pointed out that Western culture lays the foundation for violence and dialogue through nuclear warheads and intercontinental ballistic missiles, however, before you express your astonishment as to how I could become a leader of a movement that insists on the elimination of Israel, tell me, how did leaders of the Zionist Movement come from the West to lead gangs and organizations and later on a state that works for the elimination of Palestine?

Why are they permitted to commit such an aggression and we are not? The answer to this question, naturally, lies in the essence of Western culture and Western civilization which lacks the concept of justice, a fact which permits the dominance of the phenomenon of measuring by different scales in matters of relations among peoples and individuals.

[AL-HAYAH] You were renowned in Britain and the United States as one who favors dialogue rather than

violence. How did this change of attitude come about following your assumption of the post of secretary general of the IJM? How do you reconcile your personality as a peaceful academic with your personality as leader of a movement founded on military action?

[Shallah] Openness, listening to the views of others, and entering into dialogue with them has been a basic characteristic which I have developed as a Muslim from the Islamic way which rejects self-isolation and advocates acquaintance with others. The Holy Koran says: "We have created you as peoples and tribes so that you may acquaint yourselves with each other." This acquaintance goes hand in hand with listening to others' views and choosing the best of these views. The Holy Koran says: "Those who hear advice and follow the best thereof."

This openness and vigilant choosing are the way to cultural cross-pollination among races and peoples, and to me as a Muslim, they should be the basis of life irrespective of whether I am in London, Washington, or Gaza. This would not change as a result of my change of position from university professor to secretary general of the IJM.

As to the question of reconciling my personality, I am still a peaceful man. This might be difficult to comprehend for the minds of Westerners that have been saturated by the orientalist scenes of blood and the sword, so much so that the image of the Muslim in the mind of the Americans, such as President (Richard) Nixon, is that of an uncivilized bloodthirsty person.

What we should understand is that the essence of the message of Islam, whether conveyed by words or arms, is as God Almighty stated it in his Holy Koran, "We only sent you as an act of mercy for the peoples." Thus we are advocates of mercy even when we are fighting the occupation, which we do because we cannot accept seeing mercy shown to cats and dogs only, as the West understands it and as it does through its charity organizations, at a time when Israeli planes pour hell on the heads of innocent Palestinians and Lebanese, for example.

As to the difficulty in comprehending how a person can be academic, politician, and holy struggler at one and the same time, then let me ask why this does not seem incomprehensible in the case of the Israelis, who all serve in the army which kills, destroys, and carries out arrests, and perhaps most pointedly, in the case of the strategic researchers and analysts in the Israeli research centers, who are retired people who had served in the Israeli military and intelligence apparatuses.

[AL-HAYAH] Do you consider the strong growth in the Islamic current in recent years to be due to the bankruptcy of other ideological currents such as communism?

[Shallah] The Islamic current has been in existence for 1,400 years and has absorbed numerous races and cultures and been reflected in various groups and creeds; it has always been the essence of the nation. Occasionally it has receded due to some conflicts or been cast away and caused to wane as a result of conquest and force. But it has always returned to ideological or political prominence with the emergence of a religious reformer or point of reference, or a political or military leader. The Islam which toppled the Shah of Iran is the same Islam which routed the Crusades and liberated Algeria from French colonialism.

In their study of the causes of the growth of Islam in recent years, the West and its students attribute this to political, military, and economic failures as well as the failed experience of non-Islamic ideas and systems. This is a short-sighted analysis because it assumes that the Islamic current would disappear from life with the dissipation of the aforementioned causes, while the fact is that the Islamic current is the basic current and all other currents are contingent currents which need hard work to entrench themselves and which will not succeed.

Furthermore, the West and its ideological and institutional extensions are trying to confine the Islamic current or the Islamic awakening to an Islamic organization or a specific Islamic situation or group, and consequently evaluate the entire Islamic movement in the light of the performance of this or that group, overlooking the fact that the Islamic current began, from the start, with the masses of the entire nation, for Islam is the identity and cultural affinity of us all.

[AL-HAYAH] Do you agree to the statement that the West was trying to "manufacture" an enemy to replace communism?

[Shallah] The campaign which began in the West to find an enemy following the collapse of communism indicates that mentally the West cannot live without an enemy. But the question remains: why Islam? The simple answer lies in the readiness of the Western conscience and reason to choose Islam as a worthy enemy to brand with all the things the West does not like or fears. What applies to Islam applies automatically to the Arabs. Thus the theories of (American philosopher) Francis Fukuyama [As transliterated] about the end of history and of Samuel Huntington about the conflict of cultures and the statements of Willy Klaes, the (acting) NATO secretary general, are all manifestations of the

West's feeling of power and its mad search for an enemy.

In my estimation, the West's animosity toward Islam is more ferocious and stronger than the West's animosity toward Communism. The reason for this, as the English historian Arnold Toynbee once stated, is that rivalry between the (former) USSR and the United States over the leadership of the world or between capitalism and communism was nothing more than a family tiff in the family of Western society.

The main conflict, before the emergence of communism, during it, and after its collapse has always been between Western civilization and the Islamic civilization, which since the 18th century has been on the defensive while the West has been in the apex of an offensive characterized by a flagrant Crusader spirit. Did not General Allenby say when he entered Jerusalem in 1917, the year in which the Balfour Declaration was issued: Today the War of the Crusades has ended? Today, the West is resuming a new campaign in these wars.

[AL-HAYAH] But many Islamic movements use violence as a means for the realization of their objectives, don't they?

[Shallah] Islam is a religion of free choice and conviction and its means is kind preaching. It refuses coercion in all its forms. The Holy Koran addressed the Prophet, May God grant him grace: "You are not a despot over them." My understanding of the jurisprudence of Islam is that Islam would not lift arms except in response to aggression and would not fight except in defense of usurped rights. This is the concept prevalent in all the Islamic movements. The recourse by some of them to violence is only in reply to the violence and terrorism of the state. The state in our country possesses all the means and mechanisms of suppression. It is a deceptive state, as some call it.

Whatever the ideas of the Islamic groups might be, they cannot be dealt with through the violation of human rights, oppression, persecution, repression, subjugation, physical liquidation, and executions. This catalogue of state violence will lead to nothing but violence, the price of which the nation, as peoples and as governments, will pay in terms of the blood of its sons, its resources, and its squandered capabilities.

[AL-HAYAH] It has been stated that your plan is only one of rejection and that you have no integrated plan for the Islamic state you aspire to. What do you say to that?

[Shallah] Over half a century of failures of regimes and their inability to realize the freedom, justice, equality, democracy, development, and progress that they

promised their peoples, coupled with the worsening of their condition of subservience to the outside world and the internal political dictatorship, should help to ease the offensive launched by these regimes and those associated with them in their attacks on the Muslims, who constitute a true current in the nation; accusing them of lacking a plan is both unjust and arbitrary.

I believe that we need to activate the Ijtihad movement [formulation of independent judgment in Islamic theological matters] and find a new interpretation of Islam in some of its aspects, in a manner that would respond to all issues of the present age and not only those pertaining to Muslims alone. We must formulate an Islamic ideology suitable for the entire world. This is what is meant by the universality of Islam in a world suffering from crises and many tribulations. This is the essence of the new role of Muslims in the world: to find the way to help non-Islamic peoples to borrow Islamic values.

I wish to return once more to the IJM plan, which is based on the fact that the Palestine question was a central question for the Arab and Islamic nation. The Palestine liberation plan is the culmination of a major cultural plan and not a mere gun that fires shots or a charge that explodes. But the armed struggle must continue to affirm the people's refusal of the right to be buried alive and to prevent the closure of the door of conflict as intended by the current Israeli peace plan.

[AL-HAYAH] But you do not believe in democracy as a means of getting to power, or rather you turn against the democratic method after having used it....

[Shallah] We believe in democracy that respects the will and choice of the people. We do not believe in the democracy of soldiers and tanks which crushed the ballot boxes and did away with their results when the Islamists won in Algeria, within earshot and before the eyes of the democratic West, which stood silent and did nothing. As Islamists, we are seekers after right and freedom. We are not seekers after power. The historic experiment of the nation clearly demonstrates how Islam has given freedom to the civilian and family society and provided it with institutions such as that of the Ulama and the Awqaf [religious trusts] that ensured their "self-direction" and self-sufficiency in many of their needs and issues without recourse to authority.... Contemporary Islamists have drawn inspiration from this experience and thus directed their capabilities toward building the local society's institutions in the fields of education, health, trade, and economy, and have demonstrated great efficiency, as testified by the West itself.

In Palestine, we are against the Oslo democracy and the elections which are intended to bestow legitimacy on



the occupation and the autonomous Authority, which is in alliance with it. There can be no democracy without national sovereignty, without the rule of the people, and with Israel's domination of the people's destiny and resources.

[AL-HAYAH] What is your connection with the world organization of Islamic movements and what are the borders of this organization?

[Shallah] There is no world organization of Islamic movements. There is a general Islamic current, in which the common factor is to give Islam the opportunity to resume its role in the life of the nation.

[AL-HAYAH] What do you say in regard to the claim that you are implementing, in some form or another, a Western plan to push the Arab region backward?

[Shallah] If that "backward" is the opposite of forward in the sense of Israel, which is the Qibla [the place toward which Muslims turn when praying] toward which some are rushing, then we say that we are trying to implement a revival plan which seeks to push the entire nation backward away from the evil of weeping for the of the enemy's leaders.

After some had fallen for a long time into the quagmire of expatriation, which meant the loss of their identity, and after the nation had suffered from fragmentation into regional states preventing unity on a pan-Arab and Islamic basis and producing for us repressed, defeated, and selfish generations who are required to fight Israel and triumph over it, these generations suddenly found themselves face to face with the final chapter of the tragedy, namely Zionization. The nation is now being asked to kneel in obedience to the hostile plan and to surrender to it all its cards so as to set the rhythm of its life in accordance with his [Israel's] interests and ambitions.

Those who describe the Islamists — who stand in the vanguard side by side with all the living forces of our nation against the failures of the Israeli-American era — as working for the implementation of a Western plan which impedes the progress of the nation, are either coming from another planet or are returning from Rabin's funeral.

[AL-HAYAH] How do you explain the fact that most of the leaders of the Islamic movement are abroad?

[Shallah] First of all, most of the leaders are not abroad. Only a small minority of them were forced to go there,

having been driven out of their lands or forced to go because all doors to subsistence were closed in their faces and plots were hatched against them so that they no longer felt secure, and all that for no reason other than their affiliations and ideas.

Certainly, 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, Rached Ghan-nouchi, and Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq did not leave as tourists and they are not happy about living abroad. The leaders are really in the inside. But where are they: Where is Abassi Madani and 'Ali Belhadj [Algerian FIS leaders]? Where is 'Isam al-'Aryan (the assistant secretary general of the Egyptian Doctors' Association) and Ahmad Yasin, who is suffering from paralysis and other illnesses? All of them are in prisons in the era of Israel, but nobody dares to talk about them.

[AL-HAYAH] Peace is coming to the region. But what would your relationship be with the culture that this peace will bring? What will your place be in the new picture in the region?

[Shallah] I shall repeat what I have already said: The peace that is coming to the region is an Israeli peace with all the dangers and evil consequences that entails. It is a peace which will bring nothing but the culture of defeat and rites of defeat. It is a culture that will lay the foundations for Israeli's sovereignty and hegemony, which will score very high over the contradictions and conflicts of the sons of the one nation.

In the face of such a situation, we have no alternative other than to continue the strife and holy struggle based on instigating all the forces of the nation and its unity. Our slogan in the face of the Israeli-American offensive must be: unity or death.

#### **Newspaper Managers Detained in Gaza**

*JN2811073795 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic  
0500 GMT 28 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Ramzi Hamad, manager of AL-WATAN newspaper, mouthpiece of the Hamas movement, has been remanded in custody in Gaza for an unspecified period of time. Palestinian police also apprehended 'Ala' al-Saftawi, owner and editor-in-chief of AL-ISTIQLAL newspaper, which speaks for the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, for interrogation purposes.

## Algeria

### Zeroual Addresses Nation on Inauguration

LD2711115495 Algiers ENTV Television Network  
in Arabic 0905 GMT 27 Nov 95

[Inauguration address by President Liamine Zeroual at People's Palace in Algiers — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Prayers and peace be upon the most honorable of messengers. Citizens; a few days ago, the Algerian nation, for the first time, elected a president of the republic in the context of pluralism of choice and transparent freedom. By this pluralism and freedom Algeria has retrieved the authentic virtues of democracy and accorded priority to the people's sovereignty. On this great occasion, I want to reiterate today, on behalf of all of you, my warm congratulations to all those who have taken part in ensuring the success of this important national event. I address my warm congratulations to the National People's Army, the security services, the state agents, the national media organs, and all those who have showed an example of mobilization to enable the Algerian people to express its position in an atmosphere of calm and complete freedom. I also address my warm congratulations to Noureddine Boukrouh, Said Saadi, and Mahfoud Nahnah who, by a nationalist attitude and a sincere democratic spirit, have sought your blessing, thus offering their valuable contribution to the strengthening of Algerian democratic pluralism.

I should also sincerely laud all the members of the independent national committee for monitoring the elections for their zeal in order to secure the fairness and correctness of this operation in all its stages. I also express Algeria's gratitude to the United Nations, the Arab League, and the OAU that have kindly offered their testimonies without bias on these free elections. But the thanks and appreciation go first and foremost to you the citizens, men and women, who have made 16 November 1995 a new prominent reference in the history of our country. As a matter of fact, and in addition to the election of the president of the republic, your votes, to whoever they went, were primarily an important qualitative step with which you have given an impulse to the course of national correction for which you have been mobilized.

This position of yours, by which you have given substance to your deep nationalism and your entrenched determination, categorically gives the lie to many analyses and speculations on the situation of the painful crisis in our country, a crisis which you have showed to be alien to our legitimate national quests and expectations, a crisis which Algeria must get rid of definitively.

This position is also an affirmation to your firm will to effect a deep-rooted break with all conditions of the crisis which are definitely temporary. Also and especially a break with all the mistakes, diseases, and deviations which had led Algeria to dangerous slips.

Finally, this position is an affirmation of the will of the Algerian people to fully rehabilitate the national values which led them during the glorious November revolution to victory.

It is an affirmation of a strong will to complete the new national system, the system which was the true objective of the glorious November revolution. A new national system in a social-democratic and republican state. A new national system that carries our national identity in its three dimensions. A new national system within the framework of a genuine development far from all kinds of deprivation and exclusion. A new national system for an Algeria which occupies its true place and plays its legitimate role within the march of nations.

And while we embark on a new stage of the national uprising, it is our duty as a whole to bow in memory of the souls of all patriots of various ages and sections of the society who offered, during the last four difficult years, great sacrifices in order to protect Algeria. Their sacrifices will remain a source of inspiration to everyone of us.

O citizens: as I have stressed on numerous occasions, the presidential election does not represent the comprehensive solution to all the problems of our country. Moreover, the presidential election was not an objective in itself. This presidential election has restored the rule of popular sovereignty and it has released more potentials of the Algerian people. We now have to mobilize these valuable potentials in order to confront numerous challenges and to serve the solutions which have been sanctioned by the nation.

Facing the big and perpetual challenge, the challenge of national development, the source of prosperity and amity, Algeria should first undertake to reinforce civil peace and national concord. This was the urgent appeal which your collective participation in this election expressed before anything else. This expectation has my deep conviction and my firm resolve.

The state will continue its fight against the remnants of terrorist violence which target the homeland as a whole — this terrorist violence toward which you have expressed through your vote your strong national condemnation. The state will also continue the work to speed up the national reconciliation for which you have recently expressed your urgent and legitimate expectation.

While I assume today my responsibilities as president of the republic I would like to renew once more the nation's appeal to its misled sons to assume their true position within Algeria which will be built by all and for the benefit of the entire homeland.

I repeat, in order to regain their true position within Algeria which will be built by all and for the benefit of all citizens without exclusion. I also invite the Algerian youth who are misled to look closely into the ruling passed by their people and to return to the correct path. And to the sons of Algeria who have innocently gone astray and whom we consider to be among the victims of our national tragedy, I would say that the plots by which foreign forces are trying to drag you are plots hatched against your homeland, and I would also say to them that the bestial acts in which the criminals, the traitors, and mercenaries are trying to involve you in are a negation of the teaching of our true religion and a negation of the values of our ancient people.

Algeria is the homeland of all Algerians without exclusion and repentance is one of the virtues of Islam. Likewise, mercy is a blessing of God for mankind, for which our holy religion calls. The national legislation provides for merciful measures for the sons of Algeria who, with the help of God, will know how to come back to their real selves. On this occasion, I urge our scholars and wisemen deep down Algeria, as well as our intellectuals, the national information media and all the Algerians, men and women, to promote this mercy in the service of national interest. On the other hand, Algeria should dress all its wounds and reject the culture of rancor and division between the sons of one homeland.

For this reason, the Algerian people, in order to give substance to its noble values and serve its national unity, is invited to assume the duty dictated by national solidarity regarding all the victims of the tragedy experienced by Algeria. On this great occasion, I also address myself once again to the national political class which is entirely invited to place itself in the service of an authentic pluralist democracy. The roots of an authentic pluralist democracy will grow deeply through a sound and purposeful action toward the sovereign Algerian people. Likewise, authentic pluralist democracy will prosper more by means of a dialogue that must be national by its openness and by its objectives. For dialogue to have a national character by its openness, the dialogue, for which today I reiterate my commitment and to which I stick, requires in advance that all the partners shun violence and respect the constitution and the laws of the republic. Likewise, for dialogue to have a national character by its objectives, the dialogue, for which I reiterate my commitment and to which I stick, must not be at the expense of the model

of our authentic society, or at the expense of our own political, democratic, and republican system.

I reiterate to the Algerian political class my preparedness for such a national dialogue which will permit in the shortest time to make available all the necessary conditions for Algeria to complete the election of all its institutions, and for democratic pluralism in Algeria to become definitive, sheltered from dangerous slip ups. Recovering security definitively is an urgent national necessity and an inevitable priority. Likewise, strengthening the legal foundations of pluralism is an absolute duty that I have already stressed. As for completing the elections of legislative and local institutions, it is at the forefront of Algeria itself, and Algeria will accomplish this in accordance with the interests of its people only, and in accordance with its national sovereignty, removed from any foreign interference which Algeria absolutely does not permit.

Pluralist democracy in Algeria must be definitively a gain for the Algerian nation from which it emanates, and it must be in the service of the Algerian nation alone. For this reason, I invite the Algerian political class to work and act as genuine nationalist forces. I also invite it to offer its contribution so that we may build together a new national order.

Citizens, men and women: Algeria must tackle the consequences of the political and security-related crisis it has faced, but it must also and in particular work with more determination to overcome the severe economic crisis it is going through, by genuinely invigorating its economy. Such an invigoration will be the source of a permanent national growth. In this respect, our difficulties are severe, and we are faced with great tasks, but we have several considerable national resources. With serious efforts and by sharing sacrifices with justice and solidarity, and also with eagerness to be harmonious and comprehensive-minded in our line of action, we will, God willing, continue the current track of economic reforms, we will strengthen national growth, and we will prepare Algeria for facing up to the challenges of the new century which is very near.

On the occasion of the presidential elections, I presented to you an overall program aimed at responding to all the challenges of our present and our future. Today, now that I am addressing you after you accorded me your heavy confidence, and entrusted me with the duty of seeing to the realization of your hopes, I reiterate before God and before all of you my commitment to work to carry out all this program that has had your blessing. This program calls for mobilization of all the national energies; it rejects demagoguery and all forms of



opportunism; it rejects also giving priority to personal interest at the expense of national interest.

The future will be only for sincere efforts to serve the country, for loyalty to the interests of the nation, for a just sharing of sacrifices and benefits, and also for entrenching the rights and duties of all Algerians, men and women. I want also to take advantage of this occasion to address myself to our partners on the international scene to convey to them Algeria's message: Algeria, which sticks to its principles and which is loyal to its commitments and confident of its own possibilities, Algeria, which is eager to see its sovereignty respected, reiterates its full preparedness to reinforce stability, harmony, and good neighborliness, and to be integrated at regional level. Algeria also reaffirms its preparedness to promote active cooperation with all nations, a mutually-advantageous cooperation, a cooperation removed from any interference. Algeria will be always an effective partner for maintaining peace and security, considering them as an indivisible entity for all nations.

Citizens, men and women; your decisive verdict has been given on the national crisis, through the presidential elections. At the same time, you have made your sovereign decision known concerning the fate of Algeria. Today, while we are addressing ourselves to mobilizing our national energies with more vigor and wisdom to serve Algeria, I launch an appeal to all Algerians, men and women, without distinction or exclusion in order to strengthen the national rallying, and to hasten the national correction action so that we may build Algeria together.

Algerians, men and women: I appeal to you to turn the victory of your sovereign will into a launching pad for a liberating effort to build the future, and to transcend the consequences of differences and division in order to secure reconciliation between us and promote our own democracy and development so as to retrieve the true place of Algeria among nations. Glory and eternal life for our loyal martyrs; long live Algeria; peace and mercy and the blessings of Almighty God be upon you. [applause]

#### **Zeroual Rejects Prime Minister's Resignation**

*LD2711173795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The presidency has issued today a communique which says: "President of the Republic Liamine Zeroual received today Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi who tendered his government's resignation. The president of the Republic has decided to keep the current government until the end of this year."

Sifi was chosen by Zeroual to be the prime minister on 15 April 1994 during the transitional period, which ended with the presidential elections of 16 November. [passage omitted]

#### **FIS Official Reacts Favorably to Zeroual Speech**

*LD2811112495 Paris Radio France International in French 0730 GMT 28 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] One more day has passed since the elections in Algeria. Yesterday, the elected president, Liamine Zeroual, was sworn in. [passage omitted] Certain Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] leaders favorably received the speech made by Mr. Zeroual. This is particularly so in the case of Brahim Youcini, a cadre of the Algerian Islamist organization. He was interviewed by Laurent Chaffard.

[Begin Youcini recording, in French] On the one hand, there is the president's appeal for dialogue. The second positive aspect is the desire for reconciliation of the Algerian people. This appeal for national reconciliation — we are willing to contribute to it in the widest manner possible. As for violence, we are also willing to contribute to help end the violence. [end recording]

#### **FIS Leader Ready To Issue 'Unilateral Truce'**

*LD2711190195 Paris Radio France International in French 1730 GMT 27 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Shortly before Liamine Zeroual was sworn in [as president on 27 November], the Algerian daily LA TRIBUNE published an interview with Youcef Boubras, one of the leaders of the dissolved FIS [Islamic Salvation Front], an interview in which he announced that his executive bureau was ready to issue a unilateral truce in the days to come if Zeroual fulfilled the aspirations of the people, who, and I quote, wish peace and concord.

#### **FIS' Kebir, Haddam Reportedly in Disagreement**

*MM2711140295 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 Nov 95 pp 1, 6*

[Report by Kamil al-Tawil: "Replying to Haddam, Kebir Says: His Stand Is Binding on Him Only"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — The dispute among leaders of the outlawed Algerian Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] widened yesterday over the position that should be adopted as regards the results of the presidential elections held last week and which President Liamine Zeroual won. Shaykh Rabah Kebir, head of the FIS Executive Committee, has told AL-HAYAH that the stand of Anouar Haddam, head of the FIS Parliamentary Mission, is binding on him only. His statement was in

reply to accusations leveled at him by Haddam because of what the latter termed Kebir's "recognition" of the Algerian regime.

The dispute between the two FIS leaders became public the day before yesterday when Haddam attacked Kebir for sending a letter to President Zeroual offering to resume the dialogue in order to end the Algerian crisis. In a statement sent to AL-HAYAH yesterday the head of the Parliamentary Mission said that "brother Rabah Kebir's letter to General Zeroual, head of the clique, grants legitimacy to the terrorist regime and the so-called presidential elections." He added: "That recognition (by Kebir) is not in any way binding on the FIS or the mujahidin stationed in the land of the jihad and martyrdom. In a word, that letter is binding only on the person who sent it."

He went on to say that the step the FIS official in Germany has embarked on "reflects disregard for our just cause. In fact it is a historic treason which our nation's conscience will not forget. Thus one hopes that brother Rabah Kebir will backtrack on his mistake." He reiterated that the condition for negotiations with the Algerian regime is for the FIS' civilian and detained leaders to meet, in the presence of Shaykhs Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj. He went on to say: "The FIS does not recognize the presidential elections. It believes that the only way to secure a just and comprehensive political solution to the crisis in Algeria is for the military establishment to recognize the (Rome) National Covenant document as a preliminary foundation for serious negotiations to restore constitutional legitimacy."

Asked about his opinion of Haddam's accusations, Kebir said that the FIS Executive Committee (headed by him) "represents the FIS abroad. As for Anouar Haddam, he is one of the parliamentarians who won in the [last] elections, and his stand is binding on him only."

Executive Committee sources have stressed that Kebir's position, represented in the letter sent to Zeroual on 21 November, had been approved by "all" the freed FIS leaders in the country (Ali Djedi, Kamal Guemazi, Abdelkader Boukhamkham, Oman Abdelkader, and Nouredine Chikara).

Other FIS sources have expressed their surprise at Haddam's doubts about Kebir's representation of the FIS. They said that Kebir is in constant contact with the freed leaders inside the country, and that Haddam "will hear from them their support for what Kebir said in his letter to Zeroual, if he contacts them."

FIS sources have told AL-HAYAH that the aim of the letter sent to Zeroual is to reinforce his position calling

for resolving the crisis through dialogue. The sources pointed out that the FIS wants to give Zeroual its support when the awaited meeting is held soon between him and the Military Command. The sources said that Zeroual "will arm himself" with the FIS' position supportive of dialogue when he discusses with Army commanders the policy to be pursued, now that he has obtained the people's legitimacy.

The Algerian regime is unlikely to rush to resume the dialogue with the FIS, especially in the light of the widespread support Zeroual has received, represented in the people's support for him in the elections last week. Zeroual is likely to announce some of the features of his next policy when he is sworn in today or tomorrow as the country's elected president.

#### HAMAS' Nahnah Views Outcome of Election

BR2711141395 Paris LIBERATION in French  
25 Nov 95 p 9

[Interview with Mahfoud Nahnah, leader of the "moderate" Islamist Society Movement (HAMAS), by Gilles Millet in Algiers; date not given: "The Algerian People Wanted To End the Crisis"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Millet] How do you interpret the result of the election?

[Nahnah] Apart from noting that the level of the turnout exceeded all the forecasts and on top of the various percentages of the vote obtained by each of the candidates, we believe that these elections have above all shown that the Algerian people wanted to end the crisis. As for us, we are happy to have come first out of all the parties that participated in this election, which proves that the Algerians know perfectly well whom they can trust.

[Millet] Who voted for you and what does this vote mean?

[Nahnah] The political movement which assured us of its support, apart from being a popular movement whose members are spread throughout the country, is composed of various political forces. By voting for us, the Algerians have proven that they aspired to two things: nationalism and Islam. Furthermore, the Algerians have just given clear confirmation that they aspired to democracy, a concept totally unfamiliar to them up to now, since they have always lived under a dictatorship. So we have enjoyed a real celebration of democracy, one which we did not want to spoil by harping on about the irregularities that were definitely perpetrated by certain agents of the present administration during the elections.

[Millet] What is the difference between Liamine Zeroual and you?

[Nahnah] I represent a new figure and a new platform. I have not spent a single day in power, unlike Zeroual who is a product of the old system and has a deeply military background. The Algerian people want somebody new and yearn for a force that is capable of bringing an end to the current violence. Again unlike Zeroual, I personally do not have the support of the military force to end the violence, I merely have the strength of my convictions, but that counts for something. On the other hand, when I talk of Islam, I do so in the name of the broad mass of the Algerian people, and I am a practicing Muslim. As for my political platform, it calls for a dialogue with everyone, with nobody excluded, as well as for the democratic broadening of the power base.

[Millet] Many people in the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] voted for you. What do they expect?

[Nahnah] Those individuals who voted for the FIS in 1991 and those who voted for me or others this time around all belong to the Algerian people. They have proven to those who called for a boycott which ultimately had no effect that what they wanted above all else was peace. What is more, the threats made by some people did not succeed in disrupting the vote. That is our greatest triumph, because even those who used to abhor democracy have now shown that they believe in it. It makes me extremely optimistic for the upcoming elections. There is a real process of political reconstruction going on in this country. The Europeans now know that a "window" [of opportunity] has been opened up for democracy in Algeria.

[Millet] What are the main things that President Zeroual should do now in your opinion?

[Nahnah] First of all — and this is the top priority — not betray the hopes that this presidential election held out for the Algerian people. He must take immediate steps to broaden the power base by following his own campaign slogan: "Break with the past." He must put an end to the current power structure, which is based on regionalist groups and personal relations. This figure who — being a retired general — is both a military man and a civilian, must make a firm choice and give confirmation that he will behave like a civilian. He will then have to engage in dialogue with all the political forces in Algeria, leaving nobody out, and proceed to organize general elections within the next six months. Algeria cannot remain without truly elected institutions any longer.

#### FIS European Supporters Issue Newsletter

MS2411113295 Southall THE ENLIGHTENMENT  
in English 21 Nov 95

[Newsletter "publicizing the Islamic Struggle in Algeria," published by the Islamic Salvation Front "supporters" in Europe — quotation marks as received; received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

#### Editorial: The "election victory myth": Can it be a useful gadget for peace or a booster of arrogance for war?

Praise be to Allah Who Says: "So lose not heart, nor fall into despair; for you must gain mastery if you are true in faith [Koran, Surat Ali-Imran, 3:139]

Last Thursday (16/11/95) the military regime in Algeria has organised "Presidential elections" in which General Zeoual was declared the undisputed winner as expected. Some Algerians have voted, some have not but the real rate of participation may not for ever be known to the public, given the monopoly on the control which the biased administration had on the figures as well as on what the people should or should not see of these "elections". Very serious accusations were made by some from participating parties including the "melodramatic" act of changing genuine full ballot boxes with full false ones! Besides this kind of "forcing", what History will probably retain from these "elections" is:

- Algeria was under a state of siege for a period of almost four years.
- Individual and general civil liberties were very restricted.
- Only the voice of those agreeing with the path taken by the military regime was allowed to be heard.
- About 400 000 armed troops "supervised" the "elections".
- General Zeroual was declared the winner of this contest.
- The opposition who has overwhelmingly won the free legislative elections of December 1991 and which were cancelled by this same military regime, has boycotted these "presidential elections" on the legitimate basis that under these conditions, the results are very "predictable".
- "The theatrical euphoria of the victory" was celebrated by incessant firing of real bullets from people in uniform as well as in civilian clothes.

However, Algeria cannot for ever look behind. According to the majority of serious observers, a general feeling of "Algeria deserves a better tomorrow", was expressed by those who voted and those who did not.



In life, reality can be changed not only by reality but also by myths which affect people by creating a state of mind that will generate this or that action. The question that is asked today is: Can these "elections" beyond their critical lack of transparency and fairness, be used to seriously seek an exit for the devastating deadlock which Algeria has been forced to?

By accepting the announced verdict, General Zeroual has accepted to be a de facto representative of the effective establishment as well as being fully accountable to the Algerian people as a whole for the "after-elections" situation! Gen. Zeroual said, after the announcement of the figures: "I will be the president of all Algerians" this is easy to say but in practice, it will surely need a transition from that of "a representative of a part of the army hierarchy" to that of "president of the army and the Algerian people". This transition is very hard to make particularly when a part of the army and the Algerian people have mutually exclusive interests.

Observers are not sure that the "weight" of General Zeroual has changed within the Military hierarchy to be able to influence at once the path and doctrine the army has chosen to take since 1992. Some are sincerely afraid that this forged "political card" will only be used to facilitate more withdrawing of financial loans in the name of the Algerian people and that the way these elections were staged will encourage the Junta to stage other elections where it will always have the full control of the process and results.

As far as the military conflict is concerned, it will be very naive to think that it has miraculously disappeared as the "soldiers of the psychological war" want the people to believe because an apparent absence of Mujahedeen actions on the day of elections. These people who do not want the war to end, will better read this "absence" with political "eyes" and take it as a clear message full of military discipline instead of "blowing on the fire".

The causes of the armed struggle have not disappeared and nor has the struggle.

#### **The elections: The Alternative version!**

##### **Alternative elections results**

The executive committee of the FIS overseas has published the following figures in a press communique dated the 17/11/95: Overall rate of participation less than 37% for the whole country. With 33% for Algiers, 37% at Tizi Ouzou and 35% in Bedjaia.

Other sources have compiled the following figures in a document dated on the 19/11/95:

Overall rate of participation inside Algeria: less than 37% with: Medea: 2.42%, Blida: 8.50%, Ain Defla: 14.45%, Jijel: 18.18%.

Outside Algeria: Scandinavia: 23.13%, Canada: 9.4%, Belgium: 9%, Britain: Less than 10%, Italy: 2%, France: Less than 40%.

##### **Some declarations**

In a press communique from the FIS executive committee overseas dated on the 17/11/95: "We consider the results announced by the regime preestablished. This situation will not change anything from the reality of the crisis or from its depth and will not lead to its solution. The deficient legitimacy provided by these elections is only a means to persuade western countries and the international financial institutions in continuing their support to the regime and as a consequence for the people to enduring fear and injustice.

As for those who have hurried in attesting that the people did not answer the call of the opposition, it is as if they ignore that the people are under coercion and threatened by death in case of boycotting the elections. The Islamic Salvation Front would like to restate that this is the effective regime (authorities) and there is no way out of this crisis except by global and just negotiations with the effective opposition in Algeria." (End of quotation)

Mr Abderezzak Makri, the spokesman for the candidate Mahfoud Nahnah leader of the Movement of the Islamic Society (Hamas) in an interview to the French LA CHAINE INFO TV on 16th November: "I think that this result is false and is far removed from reality, as one must note that there have been many abuses, there have been many threats to and arrests of our activists. At the level of polling stations, our observers were made to leave the polling stations and ballot boxes were changed. What has taken place in Algeria is extraordinary and scandalous, it goes beyond any imagination. We contest this result and it is far removed from reality since we obtained very positive results in favour of Mr Mahfoud Nahnah in the polling stations where our members could vote without pressures and threats. I can mention to you many examples, there have been many arrests, for instance in Blida, Ain Temouchent M'sila, Ain Defla and many provinces. One of our activists was even arrested and tortured to death. What has taken place, and what is taking place in Algeria is not what the Algerian people wanted..." (End of quotation)

Mr Hocine Ait Ahmed, who is the secretary-general of the Socialist Forces' Front FFS in an interview to the French LA CHAINE INFO TV on 16th November: "There is a state of war. The reality is that the press

is gagged. The reality is the closure of the political arena, which is completely controlled by the army. The real opposition parties are forbidden from expressing themselves or acting, and most of the representatives and activists for those who signed in Rome have been arrested, threatened or even executed, as has happened with my friend M'barek Mahiou, who was one of the FFS national representatives. In other words, only the press and the candidates who favour the elections have the right to speak." (End of first quotation)

"A Well, the Zeroual after the elections is the same as the Zeroual before the elections. I would not say that Zeroual has been elected, as he was already there before the elections, but what we can simply say is that he made a push, there was, to be precise, a last minute push, to call on people to vote for peace and democracy. I think that tomorrow he will not have the pretext to say: Do not come with your hands free as heard, and that he will be able immediately to start real dialogue, real dialogue in transparency and honesty, dialogue which would be different from all the dialogue that has taken place in the last three years, which has been a pretence of dialogue." (End of second quotation)

#### What reporters have seen

"A white car entirely covered with photos of Zeroual appeared. From the front window, a security agent in civilian clothes waved an Algerian flag. The vehicle passed again and again at high speed in front of (Zeroual electoral campaign's) headquarters. Other vehicles followed and those from the police are easy to identify. The people living in 'la cite Bobillot' (Algiers), however watched the show from far. They have not swallow the (announced) results. 'I do not believe' said a man in the forties. 'The majority of the population has not voted in reality.' His friend added: 'The results did not surprise me, everything was prepared in advance.' (End of quotation from an article published in the newspaper 'LE MONDE' of 20/11/95 under the pen of its reporter in Algiers Veronique Hayoun.)

#### The "After-Elections"!

Some observers think that the "election" of Gen. Zeroual will give him a new role in the Algerian "political chess board", that of an "interface" between the army and the Algerian people. They argue that this role is necessary to assure a smooth transition of which the other three candidates would have been unable to play. For them Gen. Zeroual will be some kind of a guarantor for the army interests just like Boumediene and Chadli were before him. For those holding these views there are some who believe that given the level reached by the Algerian situation and its recent experience, the army

has decided to effectively withdraw from the political arena but will need the electoral mandate period (which is five years) to make it safely. The other part which seems more realistic is convinced that the army is willing to stay in politics in one dominating form or another and that the new strategy is to go back to full dictatorship with a "cosmetic pluralism". A plan to eliminate the representative political opposition has already been drawn and involve physical elimination of the leadership as well as political disqualification through falsification of electoral results related to future elections in which the opposition will be invited to take part. Observers of this category will be waiting to see if Gen. Zeroual will form a political party with the actual absence of any distinct political program or ideology and this will undoubtedly reinforce their arguments.

Other observers think that the doctrine of "eradication" pursued by the army under the commandment of Lt. Gen Lamari has not "deliver the goods" and was at best very cost ineffective. The economical situation can not allow to pursue that path for ever without risking a popular uprising of a seismic magnitude. Therefore the army will be willing to negotiate a ceasefire by signing a global political settlement in which it will preserve the "essential" at the expense of the "futile" and with the guarantee from the presence of Gen. Zeroual as president for the next five years. In this case the army will withdraw from politics with a guarantee to maintain the defense ministry for another five years in case Gen. Zeroual presents himself for the next elections and does not win. Those who foresee this development will be waiting for the army hierarchy reshuffling as a first step taken by Gen. Zeroual and in particular the change of position or putting in "early retirement" those Generals in charge of implementing the above doctrine. The weakness in this type of forecast comes from the recent Algerian history which took previous president and the army candidate and officer Chadli, almost a decade on the top of taking advantage of a big popular uprising in order to be able to get ride of influent officers in the army commandment.

Many Algerians still remember in that aspect, President Chadli Bendjedid who, as Gen. Zeroula was also brought by the army and has been elected as president not only once but twice, nevertheless it was not an easy task to persuade the then military hierarchy that the popular elections do mean something and a lot of the Algerian people still remember a famous photograph which appeared in the press and which show President Chadli having a meeting with the military Generals. In that famous photograph, the army generals were in a posture which indeed denoted disobedience and rebellion. Chadli dismissal was the final proof of this.

Given the situation of today one can say that time is not in Gen.Zeroual side if this option is the chosen one.

In any case, observers will surely be looking for announcement of a more or less precise agenda for political reforms as well as a reshuffling of the military institution hierarchy. The relative timing of the two will tell how serious or not the will to bring Algeria to peace with herself is. If the eventual political reforms will be planned under the same military institution, it will certainly mean that the Junta intends to use "politics" not to save Algeria but to tighten its grip on the situation as a mean to last longer and that the last week elections are just a step into a full dictatorship with a "cosmetic pluralism". Already they are many signs pointing to that assumption amongst them the announcement of the creation of three panels to "prepare the legislative elections". One of the panel will focus on drawing rules for the information sector, one for new rules concerning formation of political parties and the third to draw a new electoral law. This preparatory work is apparently being prepared unilaterally as last week elections have been without involving the opposition. Another point is the virulent Algerian news agency reaction this week to some countries which have expressed their wishes to see this election as a first step to a real democracy, to which the official newsagency was quick as usual to "take its sword of national sovereignty" out. And it is well known what meaning the Junta has been giving to that word since 1992. It meant simply that the military can do anything to unarmed civilians and if a voice dear speak out it is considered as an interference in internal affairs. In conclusion it seems that any positive change in the Algerian situation needs to passe by a reshuffling of the military hierarchy with a strict and immediate "sending to retirement" of those advocating the doctrine of "eradication" which prolongs the status quo beneficial to them in terms of immunity from serious crime persecution, financial advantages and personnel ambitions.

### Egypt

#### Minister on Clues in Embassy Bombing Probe

NC2811080795 Cairo MENA in Arabic  
0605 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 28 Nov (MENA) — Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has declared that Egypt has gathered important clues about the criminal bombing of the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-AHRAM published today, al-Alfi announced: We will not make a formal announcement about these clues because new information might become available that will assist in the

prosecution of those who planned, financed, and carried out the criminal attack.

Al-Alfi explained that Egyptian and Pakistani security teams are cooperating to unravel the mystery and expose all the circumstances surrounding the incident.

Asked to what extent fugitive terrorist leaders are involved in this and similar crimes, the interior minister remarked that the terrorists have an information center in Britain and move freely on British territory, holding meetings, making contacts, and issuing instructions.

He added that these activities are continuing in London. He remarked that all the instructions on new attacks come from abroad and that even the training is conducted outside Egypt.

Hasan al-Alfi asserted that the countries that provide asylum to the terrorists will feel the heat of the fire of terrorism and noted that some such countries have already suffered through this experience. He called on the international community to adopt a firm stance against these hired murderers who threaten humanity.

Asked about Egypt's plan of action for combating terrorism at the next Arab interior ministers conference, al-Alfi announced that this conference is very important. He said he expects extensive inter-Arab cooperation in this sphere next year and foresees a broad call to the world community to convene an international conference of security chiefs from various countries to formulate the necessary principles to confront this danger that threatens every society.

Asked if there is public participation in the fight against terrorism, al-Alfi said this participation is the strongest pillar on which the security agencies can depend in fighting crime in general and terrorism in particular.

Hasan al-Alfi remarked: Had it not been for the citizens' awareness and assistance, we would not have scored the success we have. Citizens give the security forces much information in the form of statements, telephone calls, and even letters.

On another issue, al-Alfi said Egypt will permit no one else to supervise the parliamentary elections that will be held tomorrow. He explained that any talk of foreign supervision of the elections is unacceptable nonsense in a country that respects its laws, its citizens, and its sovereignty.

The interior minister added that the law is very clear about not allowing any person to enter a polling station if he is not a registered voter. He noted that the police themselves cannot enter these stations unless summoned by the judicial committees supervising the elections.



Asked about reports by observers that Muslim Brotherhood candidates have spent huge sums on their election campaigns, Hasan al-Alfi said: We are watching all these issues very carefully. We are analyzing them and have placed the movements of these groups under surveillance, particularly those people calling themselves "the international organization." We are monitoring their use of alms money, collected by extortion from Muslims living abroad, to finance their terrorist actions.

#### **Embassy Attackers Identified; Arabs Under Arrest**

NC2811072095 Cairo MENA in Arabic  
0622 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 28 Nov (MENA)—The security team investigating the terrorist attack on the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad has identified the terrorists involved in the incident and in determining the precise roles they played in the attack.

The newspaper AL-AHRAM reports that the chief suspect, the African Arab owner of the vehicle used in the attack, is either Algerian, Sudanese, or Somali. The paper says the Pakistani authorities are on his trail.

Pakistani and Egyptian security sources have announced that Pakistani intelligence and secret police forces are pursuing the terrorists involved in the incident, having received information that the terrorists fled to the Peshawar Region in north Pakistan. The authorities have also identified the normal place of residence of the chief suspect, that is, the owner of the vehicle used in the attack; it is Atak Province on the border with Afghanistan.

The Pakistani authorities have arrested three Arabs suspected of involvement in the bombing of the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad. Pakistani police officials said that the arrests followed an extensive search of the so-called Arab colony near Peshawar yesterday. They refused to identify the three detained Arabs.

According to the officials, 40 Arab families have lived in the area since the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan; they do not allow any non-Arab to enter the colony.

#### **Al-Jihad Issues Statement on Embassy Blast**

NC2711175495 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic  
21 Nov 95 p 15

[FBIS Translated Text] The al-Jihad Organization, which earlier claimed responsibility for the Egyptian Embassy bombing, announced details of the operation carried out by the Martyrs 'Isam al-Qamari and Ibrahim Salamah Group. The statement said the two mujahidin who sold themselves to God, ages 25 and 22, carried out the operation. They boarded a double cabin pickup

truck that drove along the (Sahrurdi) street near the French Embassy. It then turned left and stopped. One of the mujahidin walked about 150 meters toward the Egyptian Embassy and hurled his pure body toward the gate. Bits and pieces of his body turned into fire destroying the spy den and opening the way. The second mujahidin, who yearned to meet God, rammed his vehicle carrying horror and death into the embassy. Bits and pieces of his body and the vehicle of death turned into hell, destroying the den of spies and turning it into rubble as if it did not exist. The souls of the mujahidin ascended to heaven. The bodies of the agents of Mubarak and Benazir Bhutto reside in hell, thus, increasing their torment. For those who escaped the blast, God cut off their limbs to serve as a lesson to those who think of harming the followers of God, the mujahidin.

The statement said that this martyrdom operation serves as a warning to the terrorist Mubarak and his henchmen, the agents of Jews and Americans, and those who conduct filthy spying operations on the faithful mujahidin.

#### **UK Viewed as 'Land of Asylum' for 'Fundamentalists'**

NC2711124095 Paris AFP in English  
1207 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 27 (AFP) — Egypt attacked Britain on Monday [27 November] for sheltering Islamic fundamentalists when a government newspaper named six alleged militant leaders living in London.

AL-AHRAM charged that in the past nine months Britain had become "the land of asylum for the leading figures of fundamentalist terrorism" trying to bring down several Arab governments.

More than 900 people have died in Egypt since March 1992, when armed militants began a campaign to overthrow the government.

The list of Egyptian militants identified by the paper was headed by Yasir Tawfiq 'Ali al-Sirri, who was accused of being responsible for coordination between the Egyptian armed Jihad group and the banned Muslim Brotherhood.

Two lawyers, 'Adil 'Abd-al Majid Husayn and Tharwat Salah Shihatah, who were sentenced to death in absentia for an attack on Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi in November 1993, were thought to have gained political asylum in London, it said.

The paper charged that Shihatah was "one of the principal colleagues of the terrorist Ayman al-Zawahiri,"

who is accused by Egypt of masterminding Jihad's violent campaign from exile in Switzerland despite Swiss denials.

AL-AHRAM also named Muhammad al-Mikri, a preacher at the Regent's Park mosque in central London, as a former leader of Jihad.

"The new arrival on the British scene is the Muslim Brotherhood movement," it said. Egypt has accused the Brotherhood, banned since 1954 but officially tolerated until the last few months, of acting as a front for armed groups.

The paper said that earlier this year the Brotherhood named an Egyptian businessman, Kamal al-Halbawi, as its spokesman for western Europe. He had lived in Pakistan for 10 years before moving to London.

AL-AHRAM also identified several fundamentalist leaders from other Arab countries, including Rashid Ghannouchi, leader of the Tunisian movement Al-Nahda, and executive members of Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

The newspaper charges were the latest in a series of Egyptian attacks on Britain's asylum policies, which President Hosni Mubarak has warned could back-fire.

On Thursday, the interior ministry said the Egyptian authorities had evidence that Britain was sheltering armed militants who were planning violence in Egypt.

It also said that the Egyptian foreign intelligence service had infiltrated the leadership in Britain of Jihad.

Jihad is one of three main armed groups which claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing on the Egyptian embassy in Pakistan on November 19 that left 17 dead and 60 wounded.

"One of the seven masterminds of Jihad living outside Egypt, 'Adil 'Abd-al-Majid 'Abd-al-Bari, has political refugee status in Britain while another, Tawfiq 'Ali al-Sirri, lives there," the ministry said.

#### **Muslim Brotherhood: Over 1,000 Members Arrested**

NC2711185895 Paris AFP in English  
1810 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 27 (AFP) — More than a thousand members of Egypt's banned Moslem Brotherhood, many of them registered electoral observers, have been arrested over the last 24 hours in the run-up to parliamentary elections, the organisation said here Monday [27 November].

"The security services have led an arrest campaign and have especially targetted the delegates of Moslem

Brotherhood candidates" in the elections, which take place on Wednesday, Brotherhood spokesman Ma'mun al-Hudaybi told AFP.

He noted that the names of the delegates, due to monitor voting for Brotherhood candidates, were registered at police stations.

The Brotherhood advocates the peaceful creation of an Islamic state in Egypt but has come under pressure from the secular government for its alleged support of Moslem militant violence.

According to al-Hudaybi, 350 Brotherhood members were arrested in the village of Kirdasash, south of Cairo. More than 600 others were arrested in the regions of al-Gharbiyah and al-Sharqiyah in the Nile Delta, Bani Suwayf in southern Egypt and in Cairo and its suburbs.

Most of these people were arrested at their homes overnight Sunday, he said, adding that "until the election, the candidates' delegates will no longer sleep in their homes."

Moslem fundamentalist candidates are running in Wednesday's parliamentary elections in force, despite a government crackdown, in a bid to lead the Egyptian opposition.

The Islamic bloc, led by the Brotherhood along with its Labor and Liberal party allies, stands as the ruling National Democratic Party's (NDP) leading rival in the vote, fielding 223 candidates.

But the election comes less than a week after a harsh blow to the Brotherhood: 54 of its members were sentenced last Thursday for up to five years in prison and police closed down its unofficial headquarters.

#### **27 Members Released**

NC2711202195 Cairo MENA in Arabic  
1700 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 27 Nov (MENA)— Twenty seven members of the dissolved Muslim Brotherhood group were released today after having been acquitted by the Higher Military Court of the charges against them. It has been learned that they were released through the police stations to which they are affiliated.

#### **Libya**

##### **Clashes Reported Between 'Extremists,' Police**

NC2711201795 Cairo SABAH AL-KHAYR in Arabic  
23 Nov 95 p 6

[FBIS Translated Text] In the second such incident in two months, clashes have taken place in Banghazi

between regular police forces and Islamic extremists, leaving more than 67 people from both sides either dead or wounded. The clashes were followed by a wide-scale detention campaign by the Libyan authorities against the strongholds of the Islamic fundamentalists in more than 77 towns inside the Jamahiriya. After the clashes, the Libyan special forces intensified their search campaigns in the border areas (with Egypt and Sudan). They set up "electric" roadblocks for thorough searches and checks of identity cards and passport stamps.

The clashes are the second in less than two months by people believed to be Islamic extremists who received military training in Afghanistan. Some of them were caught two weeks ago for planning wide-scale sabotage operations targeting Libya's security, as the Libyan authorities have admitted.

#### Al-Qadhdhafi's BBC Interview Broadcast

NC2711220795 Tripoli Libyan Television Network  
in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The BBC Arabic Service last night broadcast the second part of its interview with the brother leader of the revolution.

Regarding the so-called Barcelona Conference, the brother leader of the revolution said: We cooperate under the kind of cooperation we believe is right, but not the cooperation of containment, the humiliating cooperation, and the cooperation of interference in domestic affairs in this impertinent way imposed by the agenda of the Barcelona Conference. This is a very serious matter. The following is part of the interview:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Your Excellency Brother Colonel: Others, too, may say that the two parties are on both sides of the Mediterranean and it is logical for them to establish some kind of cooperation between them?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] We cooperate, but the cooperation we believe in is different from the hegemony, containment, and interference in the domestic affairs imposed in this impertinent manner by the Barcelona agenda. This is a very serious issue. Cooperation is something else. Cooperation means... [pauses] First let the bases leave. First Europe must be liberated from the U.S. colonialism so that Europe can be free and so that we, the Arabs, and those on the southern shore of the Mediterranean can cooperate on equal footing. But Europe is not free; it is under domination. It has been under U.S. colonization since World War II. I wish it had come under Hitler's control, at least it would have been Europeans under Europeans. But what happened is that they freed it from Hitler to colonize it themselves. Let the [U.S.] Sixth Fleet, which creates real terrorism against people,

particularly the Libyan people, leave the Mediterranean. Let Europe, the Mediterranean, and the Arab states be free so that we can cooperate on an equal footing, but not in this manner. This manner is humiliating for the Arabs and involves flagrant interference in domestic affairs. It is as if the Arabs are underage, as if they are children who need a patron, a European patron, in Barcelona.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency, the Brother Colonel: Reports indicate that the agenda includes establishing economic cooperation, combating terrorism, extremism, and crime, and turning the Middle East into a zone free of weapons of mass destruction. You must agree on these issues.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] No. We totally disagree on the definition of these terms. The honest Lebanese fighter who falls on Lebanese land to defend the liberation of his occupied land is in the eyes of the Americans, Barcelona, the Israelis, and the Europeans a terrorist. Do they not say terrorism? Do they not brand Hizballah as terrorist while it is an organization fighting to liberate the occupied Lebanese territories? An honest man whose land is occupied and who defends it becomes a terrorist? What logic could we have in common with these nations? We are terrorists in their eyes.

Libya's defense of the Gulf of Sidra is branded as terrorism. Arab unity is considered terrorism, our freedom on our land is considered terrorism, the liberation of Palestine is considered terrorism, the defense of Lebanon is considered terrorism, and the defense of our capitals is considered terrorism. There is nothing in common in our thinking.

What is terrorism? It must be defined first. Terrorism is the U.S. terrorism, the Israeli terrorism. Aircraft, fleets, economic pressure, psychological pressure, media, intelligence, assassinations, conspiracies, (?pressure). This is the terrorism. The physical and psychological organized terrorism exercised by the Imperialist and Zionist state. This is terrorism. The Imperialist and Zionist terrorism against us. What is the terrorism we are supposed to resist? Should we resist the Lebanese so that they cannot liberate their own land?

[Correspondent] Your Excellency the Brother Colonel, I would like to take full advantage of this opportunity. I believe we covered the Barcelona conference in full and you very eloquently expressed your views...

[Al-Qadhdhafi, interrupting] Excuse me, Hamdi. There is one very important point about Barcelona that is part of the agenda. It concerns support for the linguistic and cultural pluralism. This is very serious. Tomorrow they will tell Egypt since it joined Barcelona, it must



recognize the Hieroglyphic language, the ancient Coptic language, the Nubian language in addition to the Arabic language. Tomorrow, the Imazighen [Berber] language must be recognized in North Africa in addition to Arabic. The Imazighen people are Arabs, the Berber are originally Arabs who came from south of the Arabian peninsula. Encouraging the Imazighen language is a conspiracy against the Berber Arabs to return them to darkness. It is not in their interest, but Western colonialism wants to weaken this region and make it go backward. It has vetoed its future and the future of light, space, and technology. Thus, it encourages any myth or retreat backward, such as encouraging the Berber language. This is a conspiracy against those speaking that language. So those who enter Barcelona will be forced to recognize the Imazighen, Hieroglyphic, Syriac, Assyrian, and Babylonian languages and all other things that take us backward to the dark ages. This linguistic pluralism is very dangerous. Could we impose the same thing on Italy and demand the independence of Sicily, which is Arab, or the independence of northern Italy, which now seeks secession? Could we impose this? Never. Could we impose a language in Italy or Germany? They can because they are the stronger party. They are stronger because we are weaker.

[Correspondent] Thank you for your clarification on this point. I must seize the opportunity on developments in the mediation efforts between Sudan and Uganda, particularly following Ugandan President Museveni's visit and his talks with you. Following the visit, you sent an envoy to Sudan, but it seems that things are deteriorating.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Thank you. The issue is very limited, clear, and even simple, in my opinion. Sudan must in practice and for its own sake—without papers, signatures, delegations, or negotiations—abstain from backing the anti-Museveni movements. Museveni, for his part, must in practice refrain for his own interest from backing Garang.

[Correspondent] Brother Colonel, could I infer from your remarks that Sudan is the party that did not abide by the understanding you concluded with the Ugandan president?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] No, not so, excuse me. Both sides are out to spite each other and they were dragged by the opposition groups in both countries. Now Sudan's policy toward Uganda and Uganda's policy toward Sudan is determined by Garang and the [word indistinct] army, and it is in their interest of the two that Sudan and Uganda do not get along. We want Sudan and Uganda, who are neighboring states, to be on good terms, to cooperate, and stay away from the domestic affairs of

each other. Garang is Sudanese, so let his problem be with the Sudanese Government.

[Correspondent] Are there Libyan attempts and efforts to break the stalemate between the two sides and make real progress?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] The issue is simple, the way I put it. We believe that the [word indistinct] army and the rest are Ugandan, so let Uganda solve its problem with them. Garang and his army are Sudanese, so let Khartoum resolve the problem with him. Uganda with its problems and Sudan with its problems should cooperate and neither one should interfere in the other's problems. This is what we agreed upon. I believe this is very simple and will take place, because each party now sees that it is harmed from this issue. [end recording]

### Sudan

#### Omdurman Temporarily Stops Relief Flights to South

EA2711203295 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Sudanese Government issued a statement today on the temporary suspension of flights by UN agencies and the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC], as well as by voluntary organizations to the southern Sudan states. According to the statement, the endorsement of requests for relief flights to peaceful areas in the southern states will be looked into, as well as the endorsement of requests for running flights for a fixed period in compliance with UN employees' requirements, and those of international voluntary societies, and the ICRC operating in different areas of the southern states. This is effective from today.

The decision is aimed at ensuring the normal flow of relief supplies within the framework of Operation Lifeline. The statement said the government is confident that all parties engaged in humanitarian work will understand the emergency circumstances which led to the temporary suspension of flights. It is worth pointing out that the Sudanese Government temporarily suspended UN agencies' flights toward the end of October.

#### Rebel SPLA Claims 500 Government Troops Killed

EA2711180795 Kampala THE NEW VISION in English 24 Nov 95 p 1

[Article by Emmy Allio: "SPLA Kills 500, Defeats Brigade"]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) of Colonel John Garang said their forces

have killed an estimated 500 Sudanese Government troops mujahidins and Joseph Kony rebels in a three-day battle for Kit I about 150 kms from the Uganda border, last weekend.

SPLA commander, Capt Joseph Lati Modig, in charge of the Jamuzu battalion in Palotaka, said on Monday [27 November] the three-day battle against two brigades in Kwan village near Kit I left hundreds of bodies in the battlefield and the surrounding villages.

"We counted rotting bodies there. Most of them were for the ill-trained mujahidins (fundamentalists) told in Khartoum that it was only a mop up exercise in the south," the SPLA commander said. [sentence as published] [passage omitted]

SPLA claims have been dismissed by Sudanese Government officials. The governor of Bahr-al-Ghazal, A. Oguddu was reported on Radio Omdurman on Monday night denying SPLA claims. [passage omitted]

Capt Modig said the Kit I battle resulted in the SPLA capture of two tanks and the destruction of six others. He said the National Islamic Front (NIF) forces fled northward toward Juba with two tanks. [passage omitted]

#### **Regime Troops Besieged Near Juba**

EA2711191795 *Kampala THE NEW VISION*  
in English 26 Nov 95 p 1

[Article by Emmy Allio: "SPLA Besieges 3,000 Sudanese Troops"]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] An estimated 2,000 Sudanese Government Army and about 1,000 mujahidins have been besieged around the bridge on Kit River, 35 kilometres from the southern Sudanese city of Juba by the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) of Colonel John Garang, reports Emmy Allio.

An SPLA officer in Parajok Garrison Town told THE SUNDAY VISION that the siege began on November 17, when SPLA forces pursued the fleeing government troops from Kwan Village, east of Kit I Garrison after a three-day battle last week. The SPLA claimed to have killed an estimated 500 and destroyed two brigades of the government Army, Kony rebels and mujahidins, in that battle.

SPLA officer Lieutenant Matthew Gatbel said on Tuesday [21 November] in Parajok that he had received news of the siege. "Kit I is the last town toward Juba. We know that success in Kit I means problems for the government Army in Juba," the officer said.

SPLA spokesman in Nairobi Stephen Wundu said on Friday [24 November] that the besieged troops are being subjected to "blazing targets" by the SPLA forces. He said in order to stop a direct attack on them, the government Army on November 10 blew up the bridge on Kit River. "We have subjected them to systematic harassment. We shall bomb them until they see sense and surrender," Wundu said. [passage omitted]

#### **Town of Torit Under Fire**

EA2811114395 *Kampala THE NEW VISION*  
in English 27 Nov 95 p 1

[Article by Emmy Allio: "SPLA Launches Assault on Torit"]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) rebels say they have begun shelling the southern town of Torit, 84 miles south-east of the regional capital of Juba after besieging it for over a week, a senior rebel official has claimed.

SPLM's [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement] secretary for information and culture Mr. Pagan Amum, yesterday told THE NEW VISION on telephone from its headquarters in Nairobi that the town, estimated to have 8,000 government troops, is now under fire.

"We are shelling Torit. We are closing the noose on them now. Torit is of significance to us," Amum said. He added that another southern town, Kapoeta, 90 miles east of Torit had also come under rebel attack. [passage omitted] Pagan said after the siege on the estimated 3,000 government troops and Mujahideen in Kit I last week the next move is to "comb the remaining areas in southern Bari before heading for Juba." He said there was no other town between Kit I and Juba. "There are only outposts, most of which have now been scared by last week's battle in Kit I", the SPLA official claimed.

### Saudi Arabia

#### Timer Found From U.S. Facility Bomb Blast

NC2711154095 Paris AFP in English  
1500 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Nov 27 (AFP) — Investigators have found part of the timer used in a bomb that ripped through US military offices here earlier this month and killed seven people, a Western diplomat said Monday [27 November].

Part of the timer was found in the rubble left from the bomb blast, and it did not appear to be homemade, said the diplomat who requested anonymity.

Saudi authorities on Sunday issued a composite drawing of one of the people suspected of blowing up the building on November 13 used by US military officials to train the Saudi national guard.

They called on the public to help trace the suspect: a man with a moustache, regular features and black hair, aged between 30 and 40, was shown on Saudi television.

#### National Guard Official on Riyadh Bombing

LD2711222095 Riyadh SPA in English  
2002 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Nov 27, SPA — Prince al-Badr Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the deputy commander of the National Guard, has expressed confidence on the capability of the Saudi security organs in detecting the culprits who were behind the explosion incident which took place in Riyadh on Monday, November 13, 1995.

In a statement to SPA, Prince al-Badr described the explosion incident as a strange matter and said such subversive acts run counter to the nature of the peaceful Saudi society.

Despite the fact that explosion incidents take place throughout the world, the explosion incident which happened in Riyadh generated a world-wide row, only because it took place in Riyadh, he said and added "the incident was an isolated case."

Prince al-Badr reiterated the determination of the Saudi Government to ensure law and order and severely punish the criminals and those who might try to undermine the security of the country.

On the mobilization exercise, named "Victory from Allah," recently carried out by the National Guard, Prince al-Badr said the military units that participated in the exercise have proved to be capable and efficient.

He noted that the exercise had come within the framework of the exercises that used to be carried out

by the National Guard since 1389 (1970) in the various parts of the Kingdom.

The exercise is actually a test to the capability and efficiency of the units of the National Guard, he said.

Thanks to the almighty Allah, the exercise has provided a clear evidence for the high standard reached by the units of the National Guard, he said.

Prince al-Badr highlighted the great attention being given to the National Guard by Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the deputy premier and commander of the National Guard, and said the national guard has become a modern army in terms of armament, organization and combat capability in line with the most modern military strategies in the world.

The sons of the Kingdom, who are determined to defend their homeland, are capable of getting acquainted with the most modern products of the international arsenal, Prince al-Badr said.

#### Minister Praises Efforts in Explosion Case

LD2711201195 Riyadh SPA in Arabic  
1820 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 27 Nov (SPA) — His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin 'Abd al-'Aziz, the second deputy prime minister, defense and aviation minister, and inspector general, praised the efforts exerted by Prince Nayif Bin 'Abd al-'Aziz, the interior minister, and by all the faithful security men in accordance with the directives of King Fahd Bin 'Abd al-'Aziz, servant of the two holy places, to discover the criminal or criminals who committed the criminal explosion crime in the city of Riyadh on 13 November.

He also expressed his great appreciation to all the security quarters for their continuous follow-up to discover the culprits of that incident.

In the course of a talk about that disgraceful act, his highness pointed out that the statement of the official security source at the Interior Ministry, which was broadcast yesterday to all mass media inside and outside the Kingdom together with a photographic likeness of the suspected person, confirmed the citizens' response in the continued maintenance of their security and the security of the country, and their readiness to shoulder the role assigned to them in this respect, asking God to preserve our country's security and safety.

His highness the second deputy prime minister renewed his appeal to the citizens and residents alike for everybody's cooperation to identify the suspected person.



At another level, and on behalf of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the king, government, and people, his highness expressed extreme satisfaction at the attainment of a peace agreement in Bosnia-Herzegovina which puts an end to the Balkan war, which has been raging for three-and-a-half years, and called for the establishment of a unified state in Bosnia.

He said that this agreement is a good thing, and it preserves for the Bosnian people their true entity, establishes peace in that part of the world, and allows the refugees to return to their country to live in honor and freedom. He praised in this respect the efforts exerted by President Clinton to reach this agreement.

This transpired during the Council of Ministers' meeting which His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin 'Abd al-'Aziz presided over on Monday afternoon at al-Yamamah Palace in the city of Riyadh. [Passage omitted]

At the political level, the council expressed its complete satisfaction at the results of the 14th meeting of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] defense ministers, which concluded its proceedings on 21 November.

The council stressed its delight at the positive results and constructive recommendations, which will increase and strengthen the effectiveness of military coordination and cooperation between the council countries on the road toward a joint defensive force for achieving more security and stability in the region.

His excellency the information minister said that the council welcomed the agreement reached at the OPEC ministerial meeting which concluded its proceedings in Vienna last Thursday and which called for maintenance of the organization's current production ceiling.

Prince Sultan Bin 'Abd al-'Aziz described this agreement as successful by all standards, especially that all the OPEC member countries completely committed themselves to maintaining the production ceiling that was agreed upon. [passage omitted]

**Source Denies Allegations of Bombing Attempt**  
LD2711195095 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television  
Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A well-informed authoritative source said that the allegations published by the Cairo-based newspaper AL-'ARABI today, according to which there was an attempt to blow up the buildings of the Defense Ministry and Petromin company last week, were not true at all.

In a statement to the Saudi news agency SPA, the source added: We were and still are endeavoring to show the

truth and reality to internal and foreign public opinion with all honesty and objectivity. The source concluded its statement by saying that the reports published by that newspaper were completely unrealistic.

**Paper: Dayton Agreement 'Triumph for Justice'**

JN2711203495 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic  
23 Nov 95 p 3

[Editorial: "Peace in Bosnia, a Triumph for Justice"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Balkan peace agreement, initialed in Dayton, Ohio, on 21 November and announced by U.S. President Bill Clinton, is the outcome of U.S.-led international efforts. These efforts resulted in a difficult agreement. The Balkan peace talks were about to collapse. However, a few hours before this was about to happen, U.S. President Bill Clinton contacted Croatian President Tudjman. This revived hopes that an agreement could be reached. This is indeed what happened. The peace agreement that will be signed in Paris is, by all standards, a triumph for justice. Justice had been absent for four years thanks to Serbian treachery and recalcitrance. The bloody war in Bosnia is now a symbol of the ugliest conflict in Europe since World War II.

The Dayton agreement was endorsed by the leaders of Bosnia, Croatia, and Serbia. Reactions to the agreement in Sarajevo, Belgrade, and Zagreb were marked by cautious optimism. The Dayton agreement bolsters the constitutional principles endorsed previously by the Geneva meeting as a basis for resolving this conflict. The agreement maintains the status of Sarajevo as a unified capital of the Bosnian state. This state comprises two entities. The first includes a Muslim-Croat federation, while the second is a Serb entity.

Observers are optimistic that this difficult peace, which was achieved after tough negotiations, will succeed. This is because the military aspect of the agreement stipulates the deployment of a NATO-led peacekeeping force to replace the international troops. A U.S. general will lead this force. In addition, international forces shall be withdrawn during 30 days; the forces of the warring parties shall be withdrawn; prisoners shall be released; no arms shall be imported; and a mechanism shall be set up to monitor arms within a six-month deadline.

Observers think these points offer sufficient guarantees. The agreement also provides for a very strict arms monitoring regime. The warring parties must honor this agreement. This includes cooperation in investigating Serb massacres, lifting the sanctions imposed on Belgrade, and accepting international arbitration regarding the Posavina passageway.

The Dayton agreement symbolizes the triumph of justice, thanks to goodwill and U.S.-led international efforts. Thus, international legitimacy enabled the Muslim people of Bosnia to regain their rights. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia played a significant role in supporting the Bosnian cause. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia appealed to world powers to assume their responsibilities toward this cause. Saudi Arabia also extended moral and material support to the Bosnian people. This enabled them to hold their ground and defend their identity. The Dayton agreement finally enabled the Bosnian people to maintain their sovereignty over their country and restored to them a right which the Serbs tried unlawfully to usurp.

### United Arab Emirates

#### UK Official Views Iraqi Situation, Islands

LD2711215695 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic  
1948 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 27 Nov (KUNA) — A high-ranking British official said here today that the Iraqi regime should help save its people by implementing the Security Council's resolutions in connection with the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

The official, who is the British minister of state for foreign affairs, Jeremy Hanley, said in a news conference he held on the occasion of his visit to the United Arab Emirates: "We all agree that the invasion of Kuwait was Saddam's mistake, and he should sell some of his oil production to help his people; otherwise, he will assume full responsibility."

Hanley, who arrived here yesterday from Yemen, held talks today with a number of Emirate officials. He described these talks as "successful and fruitful," and said that he discussed with them the situation in Iraq and the need for an Iraqi commitment to implement the Security Council's resolutions.

He also discussed bilateral relations and current regional and international conditions, affirming his country's entire support for the UAE's peaceful orientation to resolve its conflict with Iran over the Emirate's three islands occupied by Iran.

Concerning the city of Jerusalem and the possibility of transferring the British embassy to it, Hanley stressed that "the embassy will remain in Tel Aviv until the Palestinian and Israeli sides reach agreement on this issue."

The British official talked about British aid to the Palestinian Authority, which has reached 83 million pounds sterling, that is, about 16.5 percent of European aid, for the next three years.

He said that his country has paid 2 million pounds sterling to help conduct the Palestinian elections, which will be held next January. [passage omitted: Hanley's visit to Abu Dhabi is his first since he was appointed last July]

#### UK Official on Support for Claim to Islands

JN2711163195 Manama WAKH in Arabic  
1235 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Abu Dhabi, 27 Nov (WAKH) — Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, minister of state for foreign affairs, met here today with Jeremy Hanley, British MP and minister of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs who is in charge of Middle East affairs. The British official is currently visiting the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

Following the meeting, the British official told the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY that he and Shaykh Hamdan discussed bilateral cooperation and current regional and international issues.

The British official said he reiterated Britain's full support for the UAE's peaceful approach to resolve the dispute with Iran over the three islands of Tunb al-Kubra, Tunb al-Sughra, and Abu Musa. The British official hoped this dispute will be settled.

Jeremy Hanley added that he also briefed Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan on his visits to the Sultanate of Oman and Yemen.

#### Editorial on Bosnian Peace Agreement

JN2811072795 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic  
23 Nov 95 p 27

[Editorial: "Premature Birth"]

[FBIS Translated Text] After a laborious delivery, the peace agreement in Bosnia saw light after the three concerned parties initialed it. However, it seems that the baby is deformed or was born prematurely, and there is no guarantee for its survival except through armed support by NATO and the United States, which are responsible for bolstering the circumstances that prevent the recurrence of religious conflicts and their results.

According to the agreement, the Bosnian Serbs realized half of their objectives, which is a self-rule in which they can run their own affairs, but they did not realize the other half, which is full independence on the largest possible area of the Bosnian land in prelude to join Serbia.

The Muslims and Croats preserved their unity and will join the Bosnian Serbs in a federation. According to the

agreement, Bosnia-Herzegovina will have three administrations. The first is a central federal administration, the second is a Croatian-Muslim one, and the third is an administration for the Serbian area in the east near Serbia. There will also be two armies; one for the Serbs and another for the Croatian-Muslim union.

No agreement was reached on the status of Sarajevo and the city became a suspended problem like Jerusalem. The initialed agreement did not include any guarantees for prosecuting the war criminals, and this means that the problem of refugees will remain unresolved, and this will be a cause for the recurrence of clashes unless a plan is worked out for settling the refugees under the auspices of the United States and NATO or both of them.

Therefore, the chances for the baby to remain premature depends fully on the U.S. promise to send at least 20,000 soldiers to Bosnia. However, this is also something that is linked to the current conflict between the U.S. Congress and President Clinton's administration, which may paralyze U.S. decisionmaking and prevent Washington from carrying out its expected role of breathing life into the baby.

However, it is true that an incomplete agreement is better than none at all. It is possible, with some good intentions and mutual desire not to indulge anew in the swamps of massacres and with support of all honorable forces in the world, to reach a sound peace formula in Bosnia.



**UN Envoy Rolf Ekeus Arrives in Baghdad**

*JN2711132495 Baghdad INA in Arabic  
1313 GMT 27 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 27 Nov (INA) — Rolf Ekeus, UN Special Commission chairman, arrived in Baghdad today on a visit of several days to Iraq.

In a statement to journalists upon arrival, Ekeus said he will hold talks with the Iraqi side on the Iraqi weapons programs in general, and ways to reach solutions to the unresolved problems between Iraq and the UN Special Commission.

He added that his current visit to Baghdad will greatly benefit the next UN Security Council's review of the sanctions.

**Received by Oil Minister**

*JN2711214295 Baghdad Iraq Television Network  
in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Nov 95*

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Oil Minister Lieutenant General Engineer 'Amir Muhammad Rashid met with UN Special Commission Chairman Rolf Ekeus today.

During the first round of talks, the two sides discussed topics on the agenda of Ekeus' visit, which are related to the Commission's work in Iraq.

The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY has learned that another round of talks will be held tomorrow morning, Tuesday.

**Paper Urges 'Fair' UN Position on Blockade**

*JN2811102295 Baghdad INA in Arabic  
0805 GMT 28 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 28 Nov (INA)—An Iraqi newspaper has called on the UN Special Commission to take a fair and accurate position on the Iraqi people's suffering as a result of the unjust blockade. It points out that Rolf Ekeus' current visit to Iraq is an appropriate opportunity to show this suffering.

In an article here today, BABIL says: More than five years have passed since economic war measures were imposed on Iraq due to its position on Kuwait. Moreover, more than four years have passed since Security Council Resolution 687 was imposed. This resolution has perpetuated this economic war and blockade, and set impossible terms for them after they lost all justification when Iraqi forces withdrew from Kuwait in late February 1991.

BABIL adds that during this period, particularly since the aggression ended, Iraq has taken many measures to implement the articles of this unjust resolution. Iraq

also took a substantive and extremely important measure represented by recognizing Kuwait and accepting the decision demarcating its borders.

BABIL points to the assertions made by numerous parties that Iraq has fulfilled all its commitments stipulated in this resolution by destroying the banned weapons and the manufactured equipment. It also points out that the chairman of the UN Special Commission and some of his colleagues in the Commission and in the International Atomic Energy Agency have frequently made statements which essentially conform to the Iraqi assertions that most of the files concerned with these weapons and equipment have been closed.

Concluding its article, BABIL says: Anyone who follows up on the positions of the UN Special Commission and its statements—which are reflected on the positions of the Security Council's big powers—will find out that whenever Iraq increases its cooperation with the UN Special Commission and meets its demands and terms, including impossible terms, the Special Commission's officials persist in making personal interpretations, citing various speculations, and in fortune-telling.

**Saddam on 'Distinguished' Relations With France**

*JN2711213695 Baghdad Iraq Television Network  
in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Nov 95*

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency leader President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him, received the French Senate and National Assembly delegation headed by (Serge Mathieu), vice speaker of the Senate and member of the French Union for Democracy Party.

(Serge Mathieu) and his accompanying delegation said they believe that the unjust embargo against Iraq should be lifted and that the traditional Iraqi-French relations should be restored in a manner that would serve the national interests of the two countries and boost the factors of peace, stability, and balance in the region.

The leader president, may God protect him, said that Iraq, which chose to establish distinguished relations with France more than 20 years ago at a time when it was not under embargo, still adopts the same position, because it has an independent decision in international relations. He said that efforts to lift the embargo against Iraq serve not only Iraq's legitimate interests, but also those of all the countries that seek to preserve their independence vis-a-vis the policy of hegemony and containment, which is intended to prevail amid world imbalance.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

**Saddam Attends Scientific Military Symposium**  
*JN2711212795 Baghdad Iraq Television Network*  
*in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Nov 95*

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, may God preserve him, has participated in the meetings of the joint scientific military symposium of the Army helicopter gunships command and the Armor Corps, which was held under his excellency's patronage under the slogan: "Faith is stronger than the enemy's weapon," on 26 and 27 November 1995.

At the beginning of the symposium, verses from the Holy Koran were recited. The audience then read the first chapter of the Koran for the souls of the righteous martyrs.

The staff major general, head of the committee which organized the symposium, asked for the leader president's permission to begin the symposium. His excellency gave his permission to begin the symposium in the name of God. A number of fighters then read their research papers in the field of their speciality. Discussions took place in light of this, during which his excellency made his valuable remarks.

His excellency praised the efforts being made in the preparation of researches, particularly regarding the chapters dealing with the psychological and moral aspect due to its effect on the operations field and its positive reflection on our fighters' morale.

His excellency, may God watch over him, commented on our concept of faith, stressing that faith represents the constant principles of an idea in which someone has unlimited faith. This is why we say: Our Islamic faith. The Muslim believes that his faith is constant and true, as well as the Christian. So that faith can be so, it must be comprehensive. Comprehensiveness in religion means the universe as a whole. The Muslim and Christian is mainly concerned about faith in God.

His excellency, may God support him, added: Our faith is based on the masses and the majority, and is not based on the elite. It is faith that is entrenched in the mind and conscience of the overwhelming majority and the broader base.

Regarding the assessment of the enemy power in studies and researches, his excellency stressed that the enemy propaganda concerning information seeks to spread a kind of a psychological atmosphere to affect the fire power demonstration of the trench of those who defend right and the owners of the cause.

The commander in chief of the Armed Forces has reiterated what he said during the joint scientific military symposium of the Air Force and Air Defense Command, which was held on 20-22 November, concerning relying on accurate figures in studies and from various information sources so that they can be very accurate and true in dealing with an issue which will be read by the coming generations, and which deals with the history of men who fought against the evildoers grouping.

The staff major general, the head of the committee, then delivered a speech in which he thanked the leader president for patronizing the symposium, and for the valuable remarks made by his excellency, and which enriched the symposium with a comprehensive strategic thought.

Participating in the symposium were Staff General 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal, minister of state for military affairs; Staff General Sultan Hashim Ahmad, minister of defense; a number of the Armed Forces General Command members; commanders, and officers.

**Paper Holds U.S. Responsible for World Tension**  
*JN2711182595 Baghdad INA in Arabic*  
*0740 GMT 27 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 27 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has held the U.S. Administration responsible for creating hotbeds of tension in the world and opposing the aspirations of the people seeking to achieve progress, security, peace, and stability.

In an analysis today, the paper, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says: The United States' dream of playing the role of world policeman and imposing its hegemony on the world is a very difficult, if not an impossible, dream to achieve despite all the advanced military and technical capability and resources it possesses.

The paper stresses that the U.S. Administration is facing two kinds of difficulties in this regard. The first is abroad, represented by the popular rejection of U.S. presence which was demonstrated in various ways, ranging from violence and fury to statements of denunciation. The other difficulty is at home, represented by the dispute between the Administration and Congress over the budget.

**Baghdad Urges Return of 'Stolen Cultural Property'**

JN2811115995 *Baghdad INA in Arabic*  
1010 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] United Nations, 28 Nov (INA)—Iraq has called on the international community to stop tampering with and distorting human history and to return stolen cultural property to its countries of origin. It also asserted that the systematic undermining of Iraq's cultural identity is increasing with the continuation of the blockade imposed on the Iraqi people.

This came in Iraq's speech delivered by Ambassador Nizar Hamdun before the UN General Assembly's 50th session yesterday while debating the issue of returning cultural property to its countries of origin.

Hamdun added that Iraq is suffering from continued drainage of its cultural property, particularly in the past five years, during which the coalition forces have bombed mosques, churches, and historical sites at a time when there has been both legitimate excavations and continued smuggling of this property due to both the blockade and foreign interference in Iraq's internal affairs.

He added that Iraq is known for being the cradle of human civilizations, so it has become a target for the former colonialist forces, which have stolen its antiquities and cultural property and added them to their museums. Iraq's cultural property is also targeted by special groups of antiquity dealers and smugglers. Iraq has also called for enhancing current international agreements to protect the world's cultural heritage.

In his speech, Hamdun also stressed that Iraq has worked out a draft law that will shortly be submitted to the Iraqi National Assembly. The draft law bans the importation of antiquities from other countries without their approval. It also bans the transit of other countries' antiquities across Iraqi territory, he added.

**Kurdish 'Warlords' on Loss of Western Support**  
MS2711150795 *London INDEPENDENT in English*  
25 Nov 95 p 14

[Report by Hugh Pope: "Warlords Bewail Fall of Anti-Saddam Front"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Salahuddin — Mas'ud Barzani twisted his hands in embarrassment. Even as a powerful protagonist, he agonised over the way Iraq's Kurds have frittered away Western goodwill and protection in an 18-month-old civil conflict that has split their opposition front against the Iraqi President, Saddam Husayn.

"We have ourselves to blame for the mess," the guerrilla leader said in an interview in his hilltop Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) headquarters, 250 miles north of Baghdad.

"People are frustrated, disappointed, and I don't blame them. We had so many hopes and ambitions that we would build democracy here."

On the other side of the lightly-armed front lines in the nearby Iraqi Kurdish regional capital of Arbil, officials of Jalal Talabani's rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) spoke of the same shame.

"There is no hate. It is not like Lebanon. We were together at school. We are the same people, same religion", said Sa'di Ahmad Pire [as published], a PUK negotiator in the latest peace process that has been making hesitant progress since a cease-fire was agreed, somewhat bizarrely, in the Irish town of Drogheda in August.

British and American mediators descended on Salahuddin this month to push the talks forward. But the only test of success will be in the implementation, a problem that has undermined all previous promises to try to knit the 3.2 million people of Iraqi Kurdistan together again.

Points of difference remain much the same as they have since a feud over a piece of land in March 1994 sparked the conflagration. Mr Barzani now controls the richest customs point on the Turkish border, which produces 36m pounds of customs revenue per month. Mr Talabani controls the chief cities, Arbil and Sulaymaniyeh, and about 70 per cent of the population.

Only if they can share these will anything meaningful come out of easily agreed points such as reconvening parliament, appointing a new regional government and holding new parliamentary elections, possibly in May 1996. Only then can the indebted, Western-backed Iraqi National Congress resume its role as a bridge between the two Kurdish groups, organising an alternative to President Saddam's rule in Baghdad.

Hundreds of Kurdish guerrillas have been killed in 18 months of meaningless fighting. In the last elections in 1992, both Kurdish factions got votes in each other's areas even though Mr Barzani's KDP is a more tribal, popular among Kermanci-dialect Kurds, while Mr Talabani's PUK is more urban and left-wing, popular among Surani-dialect Kurds.

In the end, Kurdish observers fear, the system of two adjacent single-party fiefdoms will continue until a decades-old feud between the two men is decisively resolved. In the meantime, regional states have not sat idle. The mountain homeland of the 25 million Kurds



is split between Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Iran, and all of them want to ensure that the Kurds neither unite or threaten their internal security.

Damascus is manipulating the disruptive PKK Turkish Kurd rebels that it sponsors into a position of power in northern Iraq. Hard-pressed Baghdad is being more conciliatory to all factions. Tehran is fast developing a special relationship with Mr Talabani's PUK.

Iranian aid delegations have multiplied their visits. The KDP alleges Mr Talabani has also closed down the Iranian Kurd opposition radio, and has allowed the murder of 19 Iranian Kurdish activist.

"It's embarrassing and it's illogical. Enemies of the Kurds can now say the Kurds cannot rule themselves," said Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman, Mr Barzani's chief negotiator. "All of us are supposed to be on the same ship. Our ship has not arrived at any shore. We are in the wildest sea and we are still fighting among ourselves."

#### 'Arafat Sends Condolences on Speaker's Death

JN2511144995 Baghdad INA in Arabic  
1202 GMT 25 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 25 Nov (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has received a cable of condolence from Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, on the death of the late Sa'di Mahdi Salih, speaker of the National Assembly.

The cable reads as follows: With great sorrow I have learned of the death of the late Sa'di Mahdi Salih, speaker of the National Assembly, who worked devotedly and sincerely to serve his people and promote and enhance the role and status of fraternal Iraq.

In my name and on behalf of the Palestinian people, I would like to extend to your excellency, and through you, to the government and people of fraternal Iraq, and to the relatives of the deceased my heartfelt condolences on this misfortune. I beseech Almighty God to envelop the deceased with the expanse of his mercy, to make paradise his final abode, and to bestow gracious patience and solace on his noble family and relatives. From God we come and to him we return.

#### Husayn Kamil Postpones Political Statement

JN2711145895 Amman AL-HADATH in Arabic  
29 Nov 95 p 7

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad—General Husayn Kamil Hasan has postponed until further notice the announcement of a political statement he planned to make public last week. AL-HADATH has learned from Amman-based Iraqi opposition sources that Gen. Kamil

did so due to sharp differences between him and two of his aides; namely, Salah 'Umar al-'Ali and Mish'an al-Juburi.

Gen. Kamil convened a meeting at his residence on 20 November to debate the political statement in question as well as the plan of action of the Higher Salvation Council over which he presides in the absence of al-'Ali, who returned to London, where he has a permanent headquarters, and al-Juburi, who was not invited to the meeting due to differences with the general.

The meeting which debated the statement and the plan of action was attended by Hisham al-Shawi, former minister and diplomat; Sabah Salman, former press adviser to President Saddam Husayn; Colonel Saddam Kamil; Sa'di Abu-Rukbah, former director general at the Military Industrialization Organization; and Rasim al-'Awwadi, former official of the Iraqi Federation of Trade Unions.

The sources added that Gen. Kamil will hold further meetings with Iraqi opposition figures in order to win them over to the side of the Higher Salvation Council, and coordinate with them on issues regarding change in Iraq.

With regard to Iraqi domestic developments, the sources said that conflict erupted once again between 'Udayy and Qusayy, two sons of President Saddam, on the one hand, and Saddam's half brothers, former Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan, and Sab'awi, who was officially relieved of his post as Public Security director last week, on the other.

The sources indicated that they had received reports from Baghdad that the attempt at reconciliation between Watban and 'Udayy failed at the last minute, when Watban refused to report to Tikrit, venue of the reconciliation, and called for legal action against 'Udayy, who opened fire on him on 8 August 1995. Watban reportedly informed his brother President Saddam of his misgivings over the reconciliation bid, saying that he is not Kamil Hannah, who was killed by 'Udayy in early 1989.

President Saddam and senior members of the family had tried to effect a reconciliation between Watban and 'Udayy the week before last. Nonetheless, the full brothers Watban and Sab'awi, who approved of the reconciliation in principle, asked President Saddam to reprimand his son 'Udayy, which prompted the dismissal of Sab'awi and his exile to a farm he owns in al-Suwayrah near Baghdad.

Meanwhile, Barzan Ibrahim al-Hasan, half brother of Saddam Husayn and Iraqi permanent representative to the UN Headquarters in Geneva, stood on the side of his two full brothers. He sent a strongly-worded letter to

Saddam in September, asking that 'Udayy be relieved of all his sports, political, and trade duties, and that he stand public trial. It should be recalled that Barzan summoned to Geneva his daughter, who was betrothed to 'Udayy, in the middle of 1993 in a move interpreted as a breaking of the engagement. The attempts by family members, particularly Sajidah Khayrallah, Saddam's wife who is also the sister of Barzan's wife, failed to bring about a thaw in the relationship between Saddam and Barzan.

In a surprise move, seven aides of Watban when he was interior minister were asked to stand trial by a special committee on charges of using their official posts to achieve illegal gains. These included Major General Muhammad Najm al-Naqshabandi, senior under secretary at the Ministry of Interior; Major General Engineer 'Isam 'Abd-al-Khadr, technical under secretary at the Ministry; Major General Hashim Muhammad al-Salih, director of the Baghdad Police Department; Majid Khurshid, director of the Follow-Up and Inspection Department at the Ministry, as well as several other officials of the Ministry.

The opposition sources believe that subjecting these officials to interrogation is a message by President Saddam meant to pressure Watban.

The sources noted that these seven officials will be interrogated by a special committee of the Iraqi National Assembly, and not by a special court, which means that Saddam is not serious in prosecuting them. This is a mere tactic aimed at intimidating Watban, the sources maintained.

#### Husayn Kamil Forming New Political Party

JN2511152895 Amman AL-MASHRIQ in Arabic  
27 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by the Arab affairs editor]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Higher Salvation Council called for by General Husayn Kamil is still in the stage of discussions on its draft political program.

People close to the Council have asserted that it will not be a national front made up of all Iraqi opposition factions abroad. Rather, the Council is a political organization opposed to the Iraqi regime. It will work to achieve its agenda, which views changing the Iraqi regime as a top priority in order to create a free parliamentary system. This system will be based on political pluralism, intellectual and political freedom, and respect for human rights and liberties.

They added that the Council will work alongside other opposition factions without conflicting with them as

long as they have common objectives. The Council has not thus far named its leadership. However, it will certainly be led by Gen. Husayn Kamil, and its members will include Salah 'Umar al-'Ali, secretary of the National Accord Front residing in London, and Colonel Saddam Kamil.

Dialogue is being held with other national political opponents to join the Council leadership. In a press statement, Wafiq al-Samarra'i said he would not oppose working with the Council provided that it should be serious about changing the Iraqi regime.

Reliable sources have told AL-MASHRIQ that a number of Iraqi personalities departed Amman, leaving this project for Husayn Kamil. Mish'an al-Juburi withdrew from the Council and left Amman for his residence in London. Al-Juburi did not make any statement on the Council's activity after he visited Ankara to gain Turkish support.

According to AL-MASHRIQ sources, no dialogue has thus far been held with Kurdish leaders Jalal Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani. Barzani was scheduled to visit Amman, but he postponed his visit under Syrian official and party pressure. The sources asserted that Gen. Kamil met with Iraqi opposition figures here in Amman to explain his viewpoint on establishing the Council and discuss the draft political program that will touch on the way to change the regime—which will be a military way according to the same sources—as well as to discuss the constitutional life in Iraq. They also discussed Kurdish, economic, social, and cultural issues.

AL-MASHRIQ has learned that Iraqi opposition writer Sabah Salman has joined Gen. Husayn Kamil. Salman used to be President Saddam Husayn's press secretary. He could become official in charge of the Council's media department.

Observers do not rule out the participation of a number of Iraqi opposition members abroad in the Council's initial discussions before it is finally announced. Iraqi opposition sources in Amman said that the recent developments regarding Gen. Kamil's group as well as the disintegration of the alliance—which was about to be formed in recent weeks—will postpone the conference scheduled to be held in Amman. Moreover, the Jordanian officials' enthusiasm about this conference has waned.

A senior Jordanian official speaking on condition of anonymity, has told AL-MASHRIQ that speculations about Jordanian plans to hold an Iraqi opposition conference in Amman are press and media fabrications, and that most of the Iraqi opposition's activity in Amman is related to Husayn Kamil alone. The Jordanian Government facilitates the entry of opposition figures at Kamil's personal invitation and request, which is the simplest tradition of hospitality, he added.

**Shim'on Peres Admits Golan 'Was Syrian Land'***TA2711191995 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television  
Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 27 Nov 95*

[Knesset correspondent Dov Gilhar video report]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Gilhar] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres made his way to a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee this morning with a total freeze in the negotiations with Syria and a Syrian refusal to meet Peres or Minister Baraq in the background. The prime minister, encouraged by the United States, knows that he must break the ice. He rejected his foreign minister's recommendation, and made a [word indistinct] statement. Although he reiterated what he said before, this time he made the remark as prime minister:

[Begin recording] [Gilhar] Mr. Peres, is the Golan Syrian land?

[Peres] The Golan was Syrian land.

[Gilhar] Therefore?

[Peres] You asked a history question, so I'll give you a history lesson. Do you think that I could draw a map for you right now and say which part is which? I will not do this. I will do nothing of the sort before negotiations begin. I believe this is unnecessary and unwise.

[Gilhar] [Words indistinct] chances of beginning the negotiations?

[Peres] Yes, I definitely hope that negotiations will begin. [end recording]

[Gilhar] And now, the prime minister will wait for Damascus to react.

**Peres Discusses Issues at Knesset Committee***TA2711162995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English  
1500 GMT 27 Nov 95*

[Report by David Ze'ev — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Speaking at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee this morning, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres delivered a message to right-wingers at the Knesset interested in cooperating with the coalition, but without further concessions. The premier said that beyond what has already been agreed upon, I do not believe that anything else significant will happen during the government's current term of office.

Peres repeated that he believes this government must stay in office until late October of next year, when Israeli law requires elections be held. He noted that the negotiations with the Palestinians on the final status of

the territories are to start in May of next year, but he also pointed out that three years have been allotted for the negotiations.

As for the interim arrangement, Peres said he has been told that the bypass roads connecting Jewish settlements are expected to be ready on time for the withdrawal from the final city, Hebron, by the end of April. Among the some 1,000 observers for the Palestinian elections are to be former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Peres' conciliatory tone toward the Israeli settlers even extended to the isolated Gaza settlement of Netzarim. Peres said he had believed Netzarim should be evacuated but, because the late Prime Minister Rabin thought otherwise, I have to take into account Rabin's positions on this and other issues. [passage omitted]

The Americans are expecting a major breakthrough on the Israeli-Syrian track, in advance of meetings in the coming weeks between U.S. and Israeli officials. A senior U.S. diplomatic source, expressing optimism, went as far as to say that he expected a major breakthrough between Israel and Syria. The belief at this point is that the breakthrough would not be in content, but rather in high-level talks. An American official said the U.S. has tried to convince Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to meet with the Israeli prime minister. In the words of an American official: If we push enough this time, maybe he'll say yes. [passage omitted]

A source at the closed-door meeting [of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee] said Peres told the committee that, as of yet, the Americans have not presented their new ideas to him, so there is nothing to report.

Pressed in the committee by Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu, Peres said he would not show his cards, as he put it, but he made a number of allusions to what his next steps will be: New ideas must always be introduced, Peres said; territory is very important to security, but peace is also important to security. Israel without Sinai and with peace with Egypt, along with Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza, is stronger than an Israel with the Sinai and without peace. Peres noted that Rabin himself said that the depth of the withdrawal on the Golan Heights will be determined by the depth of peace Syria is ready to offer. Both security and peace are important to me, and I will not elaborate. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 27 November carries an announcer-read report adding: "Prime Minister Peres



said today that, as far as he is concerned, a partial agreement — not necessarily a comprehensive peace agreement — with the Syrians is also possible. Nevertheless, he does not believe that there is a chance that the Syrians will accept this. Mr. Peres made the remarks at a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today.”]

**Peres Sets Jerusalem as Capital as ‘Red Line’**

TA2811122795 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew  
28 Nov 95 p A7

[Report by Gid'on Alon and Tzvi Zerahya]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] For the first time since assuming the job of prime minister, Shim'on Peres detailed the timetable for the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in the West Bank. Addressing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday, Peres pointed out that the redeployment is proceeding according to plan and that the two bypass roads in Ramallah and Bethlehem will be completed in time. In his opinion, the redeployment in the Hebron area will be completed by the end of April 1996. [passage omitted]

He added that the negotiations about the permanent arrangement, which are scheduled to last three years, will start in May 1996. "I do not believe that anything significant pertaining to the permanent arrangement will be decided before the Knesset elections in October 1996," Peres pointed out. "My red lines in the permanent arrangement are: There will be no foreign army west of the Jordan River; Jerusalem will remain united under Israeli sovereignty, and it will be the capital of Israel alone."

The prime minister went on to say: "The first beat of the next stage of the redeployment will take place in August 1996. The options are: transferring land from Area B to Area A, from Area C to Area B, or from Area C to Area A, but under no circumstances whatsoever in the opposite direction."

According to him, these options are based on the notion of what he termed "blocization" [gushizatzya] of settlements, which would be linked by bypass roads. [passage omitted]

Replying to a question by Moshe Peled of Tzomet about what will happen with the elections in the territories if the roads are not completed, Peres said: "The PLO will be in charge of the ceremonies, and we will be in charge of security." [passage omitted]

[A report by parliamentary correspondent Gid'on Alon on page A2 of the same issue of HA'ARETZ notes that Peres told the Knesset committee that "he is committed

to the decision of the late Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to hold a referendum on the future of the Golan, if a significant withdrawal on the Golan Heights is agreed upon with Syria. 'I will honor everything Rabin announced,' Peres told the committee."]

**NRP To Reexamine Platform in Light of Accords**

TA2611193095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew  
1900 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] NRP [National Religious Party] Chairman Zvulun Hammer has said that his party recognizes the Oslo agreement as a fait accompli and understands that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will not return to the Gaza Strip or Janin.

Hammer asserted that the NRP has to reexamine its political platform before the elections, noting that some NRP members have called for adopting the position of the Third Way.

Hammer explained that there has been a change in the NRP's position following the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Hammer was speaking before the Council for Peace and Security in Tel Aviv. His remarks were reported by our correspondent Yaron Kaner.

**Statement Rejects Oslo Accord**

TA2811074795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English  
0500 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Following anger in the National Religious Party [NRP] over Zvulun Hammer's statements about accepting the Oslo agreements, the party's Knesset faction has issued a statement rejecting the Oslo accord and calling it a dangerous opening for the establishment of a Palestinian state. At the same time, the NRP said it would consider whatever new facts are on the ground in Judaea and Samaria when election time comes around.

Meanwhile, the Labor Party has revised a statement in the understandings with the NRP: that any redeployment in the territories would be done in consultation with the religious party but would not grant it veto power over any decision. [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 28 November carries a related report by Evelyn Gordon on pages 1 and 12, adding that "the draft document had originally stated that any further redeployment would be 'with the NRP's approval'."

[The POST adds that the NRP resolution of 27 November states that "any retreat by Labor from the wording of the document agreed upon by the two parties' negotiating teams will prevent the NRP from signing it.

If the Labor Party caves in to pressure from Meretz — and this is how the situation looks at the moment — it is being dragged into a political process characterized by haste and radicalization, which the NRP rejects entirely.”]

#### **Katyusha Volleys Continue in Galilee Panhandle**

TA2811083195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew  
0800 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Another volley of katyusha rockets was fired at the Galilee panhandle a short while ago, but no one was hurt this time. Seven people were either slightly injured by shrapnel or suffered anxiety attacks in the wake of the earlier attack. Damage was also caused in one settlement.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0807 GMT on 28 November carries a live report from the north by Menahem Horowitz who says that “in fact, the terrorists are continuously firing katyusha rockets at the Galilee panhandle at short intervals. I believe dozens of katyushas have fallen in the area during the past two hours, with the last coming only a few minutes ago.” Horowitz adds that “this is undoubtedly one of the heaviest shellings of the Galilee recently.”]

#### **5th Volley Hits Galilee**

TA2811111695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew  
1100 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Some 30 minutes ago, another volley of katyusha rockets hit the Galilee panhandle. Hizballah assumed responsibility for the firing. Our correspondent Moti 'Eden reports that this was the fifth katyusha volley. Several people were slightly injured and heavy damage was caused to cars and buildings in the Galilee panhandle. The residents of the areas hit are in shelters and safe rooms, and the schools are closed. [passage omitted]

#### **Katyushas Injure 4**

TA2811072095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew  
0700 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Several katyushas hit the Galilee panhandle this morning. In one settlement, four people were slightly injured and damage was caused. Three of the wounded were injured by shrapnel and the fourth is suffering from chest pains. They are currently being treated in an emergency ward in Qiryat Shemona. Our correspondent Ilan Ro'e reports that the Galilee panhandle residents have been ordered into the shelters.

The katyushas were fired shortly before 0600 GMT, and they damaged cars and a public building in one of the settlements. Qiryat Shemona Mayor Prosper 'Azran said

that municipal workers are currently at the site where the katyushas fell. Our correspondent Moti 'Eden reports that Western Galilee residents have also been ordered into the shelters.

Deputy Defense Minister Ori Or told Qol Yisra'el that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] must examine ways to make the Lebanese Government and Hizballah realize that the price of katyusha attacks is not worth their while.

#### **Chief of Staff: Hizballah Endangering Lebanese**

TA2811121895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew  
1105 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant General Amnon Lipkin-Shahaq, chief of staff, briefed the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee this morning on the katyusha firing in the north. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir heard him upon leaving the Knesset:

[Begin recording] [Shahaq] Since morning, many katyusha rockets have been fired at northern Israel. Hizballah is behind this. Yesterday, too, we found one rocket that was fired at our territory. The reality this morning is totally different. Since morning, Hizballah has fired a relatively large number of katyusha rockets from several sectors.

I believe Hizballah knows what it is doing. I assume it will also explain its motives. I believe Hizballah is jeopardizing the lives of thousands of residents of south Lebanon. There is a government in Lebanon that gave its blessing to Hizballah activities not so long ago. I believe the Lebanese regime must also be very worried by what Hizballah is doing today inside the territory of the State of Lebanon. I repeat: Hizballah is jeopardizing the safety of thousands of Lebanese residents. I hope that the Lebanese regime is aware of and responsible for its own actions. In a way, it is fully responsible for Hizballah's activities.

Questions will also be asked about the Syrians. I cannot tell you more today than has been said on previous occasions. I ask two questions from two aspects: If Syria has an influence on Hizballah, what do the Syrians want? And if the Syrians have no influence on Hizballah, is this really true? If so, how is it that Hizballah enjoys the ability to maneuver in territories that Syria is, in fact, protecting? To conclude, I believe the Syrians have an influence on Hizballah, which we have witnessed in the past. I do not know the reason for Hizballah's conduct today.

[Nir] The chief of staff was asked whether the situation warrants an unequivocal IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operation.

[Shahaq] The situation warrants thought and decision-making, and this is precisely what we are going to do as soon as I leave here. Thank you. [end recording]

**Beilin Sees Annexation of Most Settlements**

TA2811101595 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew  
28 Nov 95 p A1

[Report by party affairs correspondent Yerach Tal]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Labor took another step toward the National Religious Party [NRP] yesterday. In a meeting with the NRP's Young Guard at the Knesset last night, Minister Yosi Beilin, a close associate of Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and the man assigned on his behalf to conduct the contacts with the NRP, voiced political opinions which were greeted with a great deal of satisfaction by the NRP but once again infuriated Meretz and certain Labor circles.

Minister Beilin said that a unique opportunity has been created for Labor, the religious sector, and the settlers to hold a dialogue on the permanent arrangement. "I believe we can attain a permanent arrangement in which most of the settlers would remain in their settlements and the areas they live in would be annexed to Israel and become part of sovereign Israel," Beilin said.

Beilin spoke about the differences between the political ideologies of Labor and the NRP: "As a matter of fact, there is a symmetry between the faits accomplis — that is, the settlements — created by the right wing during the Likud's term in power and the facts created by the Labor-led government on the peace issue. Each side must take the facts created by the other side into account. Today, I cannot ignore the settlers in the area, while the right wing cannot ignore the issue of peace and the agreements we signed. Zvulun Hammer would not have gone to Oslo, but today he cannot ignore the Oslo agreements."

Referring to the permanent arrangement, Beilin said he is not at all sure that a Palestinian state will come into being, "but whoever looks for one may also find it in the Camp David accords. The Palestinians' Balfour Declaration was signed by Menahem Begin at Camp David," he said.

Beilin spoke about the need to pursue the dialogue between Labor and the NRP, even if this does not result in the signing of a political document of understanding. He said that the issue of the territories, the settlements, and the way to attain peace had become so central in our lives that we failed to see the issues on which we see eye to eye, such as the principles of Zionism, the existence of a Jewish state, absorbing aliyah, and democracy.

Beilin defined the lack of communication that has existed to date between Labor and the NRP as abnormal. He also blamed Labor for failing to nurture a dialogue with the religious sector, which contributed to the rift created between the two parts of the population. "It is not normal that a meeting between myself and NRP Knesset members should become a media sensation," he said. Beilin stressed that Labor under Peres will not desist and will pursue the efforts to reach an understanding with the religious parties. [passage omitted]

**Sources Doubt Police Ability To Control Nabulus**

TA2711061695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew  
0500 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Twenty-five Palestinian staff officers will arrive in Tulkarm today in anticipation of the redeployment in the city. Fifteen Palestinian liaison officers entered the coordination and liaison offices in 'Aqraba near Nabulus yesterday after the differences of opinion on the issue were settled.

Defense establishment sources fear that the Palestinian Police will not be able to control the situation in Nabulus. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the violence in Nabulus is increasing, especially because of severe conflicts within Fatah.

**Restrictions on 'Arafat Travel Eased**

TA2611062895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English  
0500 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel has eased travel restrictions on Yasir 'Arafat. From now on, he will be able to travel by helicopter from Gaza to the West Bank at only four hours' notice to the Israeli authorities. Israel and the Palestinians have agreed on two air routes from Gaza to the north and south of the West Bank.

**Update on Investigation of Rabin Murder**

TA2811110295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew  
1000 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The investigation into Rabin's murder: Rabbi Nahum Rabinovich, the rabbi of the hesder yeshiva [combining religious studies with military service] in Ma'ale Adumim, arrived at the Israel Police National Unit for Serious Crimes Investigation in Petah Tiqva this morning for questioning. Our correspondent Shim'on Vilna'i reports that upon his arrival, Rabbi Rabinovich said that he has never spoken in support of hurting the prime minister.

This morning, the Tel Aviv District Court rejected the appeal of Margalit Har-Shefi of Bet El against her continued remand in detention; therefore, she will



remain in custody until 1 December. She is suspected of being connected with the group around Yig'al 'Amir, Yitzhaq Rabin's murderer. Our correspondent 'Anat Peleg reports that the court rejected a request by Har-Shefi's attorney and family to be allowed to bring doctors to the detention facility to examine her physical and psychological condition. The judge ruled that she is to be examined today but by the detention facility medical team.

Avishalom Weinberg, another suspect questioned in connection with the murder, has been released from detention. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that several restrictions were imposed on him, including house arrest for the coming week. The police say that he will be summoned for further questioning as warranted.

Natan Levi from Petah Tiqva, a member of the EYAL [Irgun Yehudi Lohem] and the Kahana Hay movements, has decided to turn himself in to the police. Our correspondent Yafa Glick reports that he will do so through his lawyer.

Deputy Education Minister Mikha Goldman has just ended his open testimony before the Shamgar commission of inquiry. He described the events in the Tel Aviv square during the rally at the end of which the prime minister was murdered. Goldman noted that it was not difficult to get to the VIP stage and that no one checked him when he got there. Before hearing Goldman, the members of the commission heard the testimony of Deputy Commander Hezi Leder, the police officer in charge of intelligence. His testimony was given behind closed doors. Our correspondent Yitzhaq Feller reports that the Shamgar commission is currently hearing the testimony of two police officers who were stationed in the parking lot area on the night of the murder and saw Yig'al 'Amir prior to the assassination.

#### **Commentary on 'McCarthyism' Following Assassination**

TA2511183495 Tel Aviv VESTI (VESTI-2 supplement)  
in Russian 23 Nov 95 p 2

[From Dov Kontorer's weekly "Ultima Thule" column: "McCarthyism"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Democracy is defending itself. That is not surprising: "A revolution is only worth anything if it can defend itself." Lenin's postmortem

of the Paris commune can be a valid epitaph on the gravestone of any defunct social structure, and the bombarded Israeli democracy, struggling to survive, is convinced today of its right to defend itself. The problem lies in the details, but these details can easily turn into a new whole that will be more dangerous than Yig'al 'Amir's bullets.

The safely-protected democracy is beginning to suffocate in the tight embrace of its ardent defenders. The events of the past few days are proof of how easily and incidentally a lawful society can fall into the pit of bureaucratic supremacy.

...Having served her customer, the bank teller asked: "Who is next?" A voice in the line said: "Shim'on Peres." No one answered the loud question that immediately followed: "Who said that?" The bank doors were locked at once, and the police were summoned to the scene. The petrified wisecracker was revealed and taken away by the police. This did not happen on another planet. It happened right here in Ashdod. [passage omitted]

My column is not long enough to repeat all the anecdotes from the past few days. A suffocating aura of McCarthyism has taken over our country with amazing ease, almost unchallenged. And our duty as citizens has become very simple: We must repeat some basic truths loud and clear, otherwise we will soon die of suffocation.

Every citizen in a democratic state has a natural and indisputable right to joke about the demise of a prime minister — even if his jokes seem tacky to some. A citizen has the right to rejoice at the death of a prime minister, and his foolish glee should not be grounds for criminal prosecution. A researcher has a right to publish the findings of his scientific research without fearing a nefarious interpretation by deranged students or preposterous threats from fascistic Knesset members. A citizen's refusal to stand to attention at the sound of a memorial siren cannot be used as evidence of his guilt. And while we are on this subject of forced mourning, I feel it my duty to inform my readers that on 6 November, when the chilling sounds of sirens rang throughout the country, I was in my kitchen peeling potatoes. Whether I did so standing or sitting is up to the investigation to reveal.

**Security Forces Continue Search for 2 Libyans**

JN2811111095 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English  
28 Nov 95 p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Amman—Security agents have drawn a wide dragnet for two mysterious Libyans who entered Jordan and appeared to have gone to ground immediately, security sources said Monday.

A report in a local weekly tabloid said the two, whose photographs appeared in the local press in two police notices seeking information on the whereabouts, had disappeared at the Jordanian-Syrian border joint at al-Ramtha.

It was not immediately clear who the two men were wanted by the security authorities. In the first public notice in local newspapers, the security authorities said the two were wanted for financial misdeeds, but the second one said they were sought in connection with security issues.

According to the sources, the notices have drawn little clues to trace the two. It was not known when the two had entered Jordan.

The weekly tabloid al-HADAF reported in its latest issue that the two, identified as Mufti 'Ali Mas'ud and Kamal Jum'ah 'Ali, had vanished at the border with Syria, leaving their passports behind.

"As far as the security forces are concerned, the hunt is still on for the two," said a source, speaking on condition of anonymity. But the source declined to say why the two were wanted.

Al-HADAF quoted the Libyan charge d'affaires in Jordan, Siddiq Balquin, as dismissing reports that the two men were wanted for security reasons and saying that a "personal fraud" was behind the affair.

The Public Security Department (PSD) said it had no information on the matter.

AL-HADAF quoted unidentified sources as saying that the two Libyans were involved in a "very dangerous" plot and that the two could be members of the Libyan external security forces "specialised" in eliminating Libyan exiles Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi. However, no opponents of the Libyan strongman are known to be living in Jordan. [passage omitted]

**Link With Riyadh Bombing Probed**

JN2811115295 Amman AL-HADATH in Arabic  
29 Nov 95 p 4

[Unattributed "exclusive" report]

[FBIS Translated Text] It seems that ups and downs in Jordanian-Syrian relations are not purely political. They

reflect a serious security crisis that gave rise to the recent escalation in Jordan's tone toward Syria.

AL-HADATH has obtained information from senior sources accusing Syria of supporting sabotage operations against Jordanian and Arab targets. These sources revealed to AL-HADATH that the security bodies arrested some members of organizations operating in Syria; namely, Fatah-the Revolutionary Council, led by Sabri al-Banna also known as Abu-Nidal; the Palestinian Hizballah; and the Islamic Jihad Movement, who were planning operations against Jordanian and Arab targets. The sources said these organizations made this decision after obtaining a green light from Syria, in addition to Libyan-Iranian backing.

The sources said that two Libyans pursued by the security bodies were implicated in this affair. A big reward was promised to anyone giving information about them. Their photographs were also published in the local newspapers last week. However, it is still unknown whether they were sent by the Libyan or other intelligence services, or in coordination with the above-mentioned organizations.

The sources said the two Libyans left their passports to be stamped at the al-Ramtha border post and fled to Syria. The security bodies then circulated their passport photographs.

Informed sources do not rule out the possibility that the two Libyans might have taken part in blowing up the U.S. military mission headquarters in Riyadh. Another possibility is that they were planning attacks in Jordan.

The security bodies published two notices on these two Libyans. In the first they said that the two Libyans were wanted for embezzlement from a Jordanian company. The second said the Libyans are wanted on account of a serious security case. The security bodies are still interrogating suspects to find out the nature of the sabotage operations, their reasons, and the persons standing behind them.

The Libyan Embassy in Amman acknowledged the first notice. Libyan Charge d'Affaires al-Siddiq (Balrawin) told AL-HADATH that this issue is absurd, because it is a personal fraud that does not deserve all this clamor. He denied knowledge of the two Libyans' involvement in a serious security case, as reported by the second notice.

'Adil al-Shurman, head of Public Relations in the Jordanian Public Security Department said: Had we intended to supply you with information on this subject, we would have done so in the notice. In fact, we do not know why the notice was published, because this

is a purely security case which is being investigated in complete secrecy.

Informed sources do not rule out that the two Libyans, who are wanted by the Jordanian security bodies and are involved in a serious security case, are members of a very special organ called "Liquidation" [al-tasfiyah] that belongs to the Libyan external security service, which is charged with carrying out outside operations, including explosions and assassination of figures, particularly Libyan opposition figures. Most prominent among this organ's members is Colonel Musa Kusa, who was recently appointed by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi as head of the Libyan security, which was temporarily headed by Yusuf al-Dibri. Al-Dibri was not invested with full powers due to the presence of Colonel 'Abdallah al-Sanusi, also known as the dark man [al-rajul al-asmār]. Al-Sanusi, who is al-Qadhdhafi's brother-in-law and director of the special operations, was the strong man who actually ran the security service before being replaced by Colonel 'Abd-al-Salam Ihmudah, who became the powerful man in the Libyan security.

Although Col. Kusa is considered a powerful man in the Libyan security hierarchy, just like Colonel 'Abd-al-Salam al-Zatimah and Muhammad al-Majdhub, the dark man or Ihmudah, or both of them, are behind sending the two Libyans, if we assume that they are Libyan intelligence men who came to carry out a criminal act or had a hand in the Riyadh explosion.

It is worth noting that many international terrorism experts, whether in the United States or Egypt, had earlier warned of terrorist acts in Jordan and some Gulf states following the Riyadh explosion.

#### **Al-Kabariti Cited on Barcelona Conference**

*JN2511161795 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has stated that the Barcelona conference, which will bring together European and Mediterranean states on 27 November, will determine the general framework of the relationship between the European states and the Mediterranean countries, which will be based on partnership agreements to be concluded between the EC and several countries of the region.

Al-Kabariti, head of the Jordanian delegation to the conference, will leave Amman tomorrow, Sunday. He added that the Barcelona conference will draw up the framework of the European-Mediterranean relationship, taking into account political, security, economic, financial, cultural, and social factors.

In a statement to the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY, the foreign minister went on to say: The Barcelona conference is the catalyst that will produce negotiations to be held by the EC aimed at concluding full-scale partnership agreements with the countries of the region. Moreover, this conference will be the first European-Mediterranean grouping to be set up. This is a product of the peace process begun in Madrid in October 1991.

Al-Kabariti said Jordan began the partnership talks with the EC in July. Two rounds of talks were held in Brussels. The talks are expected to resume next month.

Al-Kabariti added that several rounds of talks were held with the European side to prepare for the Barcelona conference and agree on a final draft declaration. The Arab countries that will take part in the conference met ahead of these talks to coordinate their stands and come up with a joint Arab stand toward this declaration. He noted that the last round of talks will be held within the next two days.

#### **Expects Arab Summit in Early '96**

*JN2711202395 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 27 Nov 95 pp 1, 17*

[Report by Mamduh Hawamidah]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman — PETRA — Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has said that there are ongoing active Arab contacts to hold an Arab summit.

On the eve of his departure for Barcelona, al-Kabariti said that these contacts are yielding positive signs of support for an Arab summit.

In response to a question by AL-RA'Y, the minister added that the main objective of the summit will be to clear up Arab differences, unify Arab views and policies toward the current peace stage, and come out with clear and defined political visions of an Arab move in the international arena, which is witnessing swift political and economic developments.

Al-Kabariti said that the Arab nation is going through a historical stage, which prompts us to unify our stands and future visions.

In response to another question, the foreign minister added that it is premature to say where the Arab summit will be held, but he said, it is important that it be held.

The foreign minister expected the summit to be held in early 1996. [passage omitted]



**Paper on Syrian, Lebanese Summit Attendance**  
*JN2611160995 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic*  
26 Nov 95 p 17

[Editorial: "Implications of Syrian Attendance of Barcelona Conference"]

[FBIS Translated Text] With the convocation of the Barcelona Euro-Mediterranean conference Monday, another step will have been made along the path of regional changes through an unprecedented political, security, and economic European extension.

In addition to the fact that the Barcelona conference is seen as complementing the Amman Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit, because it aims at supporting regional development and cooperation in the peace era, it also indicates that all parties in the Arab region, including Syria, have chosen the same policy with only one difference. This difference is that on the one hand there are those who have clear and continuous initiatives aimed at achieving national and pan-Arab gains from peace and from the international community's interest in the region. On the other hand, there are those who make a step here and refuse to make one there for reasons that have nothing to do with the established strategic policy, but have to do with short-term tactical objectives that in most cases are neither comprehensible nor justifiable.

Arab parties which boycotted the Amman summit have decided to take part in the Barcelona conference alongside Israel. This decision is accompanied by recurrent signs that Damascus and Tel Aviv welcome the resumption of bilateral negotiations to achieve a peace treaty between Syria and Israel. Moreover, the Syrian and Lebanese attendance of the Euro-Mediterranean conference proves the desire for regional cooperation, which was an objective of the Amman summit.

It must be stressed that a just and comprehensive peace is the most important condition for security and stability in the region and that cooperation rather than confrontation and attrition serves everyone's interest. At the same time, however, it must also be stressed that what some Arab parties continue to do in order to distort Jordanian efforts — that are still being made on the pan-Arab, regional, and international levels to achieve security, stability, and development under the canopy of peace — does not serve even the immediate and tactical interests of these parties. These parties chose peace as a strategy and, through their attendance of the Barcelona conference, they prove that they support regional cooperation in all its political, security, and economic aspects.

Some of those who thought that obstructing Jordanian efforts aimed at serving the national and pan-Arab objectives of peace is based on rejecting peace treaties, are beginning to see the light. It is hoped that those who tried to obstruct these efforts before and after the Amman summit and before and after signing the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty will move toward building on what Jordan has accomplished for itself and for its nation. This is especially since the pan-Arab interest ultimately serves everyone provided that all parties believe in everyone's right to equitability [takafu'] and avoid the policies of axes and attempts to dominate the brothers.

Jordan's continuous demand is that the Arab peoples should have the right to peace, pluralism, respect for human rights, and compensation for all the years of attrition. Such a demand, which can be achieved if all parties display good intentions and concern for their people's interests, cannot tolerate further manipulation or delay.

**Paper on Syrian Relations With Israel, Jordan**  
*JN2511094995 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic*  
25 Nov 95 p 25

[Editorial: "Syria, and Clearer Steps Toward Peace"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is now certain that the Syrian-Israeli peace talks are proceeding with accelerating steps to reach an agreement that will end hostility between Syria and Israel. This is being done against the background of the recent accelerating developments after the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and after Shim'on Peres became prime minister for a transitional one-year period.

Thus, it is necessary to finalize the negotiations during this transitional period in anticipation of a future government that does not have the same peace concepts as the Peres government. We are referring to a right-wing Israeli government with a slight majority, which has to include the small religious extremist movements, which reject, in principle, moving the peace process toward its sought objectives.

In addition to the clear Syrian political moves, the official Syrian media have recently begun an intensive campaign aimed at preparing the man in the street to accept the coming changes in the near future by focusing on peace as a general theme and highlighting it as something that can increase prosperity and guarantee security and stability.

We sincerely welcome the Syrian inclination toward peace, and we are confident that peace is an objective that deserves great efforts and much persistent, serious

work. We find it strange, however, that this Syrian inclination is accompanied by a media campaign opposed to the Jordanian peace march. This media campaign tends to create hostility for which there is no acceptable justification under the current circumstances. Based on our clear pan-Arab positions, we seek to avoid such hostility in the hope that our Arab nation will restore some solidarity. This solidarity will guarantee restoring the Arab nation's rights and proceeding toward developing the Arab communities under more positive circumstances and better hopes for the aspired future.

#### Islamists Win 'Landslide' Victory in Union

JN2811112495 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English  
28 Nov 95 p 12

["Special" report by Sa'idah Kilani to the JORDAN TIMES]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Islamists scored a landslide victory in the elections for the seven branches of the Jordan Engineers Association (JEA), taking control of 40 out of 49 seats. One of the winners was an Islamist woman.

The outcome, crucial to the shape of the JEA council whose elections are expected to be held in February, showed that the Islamists took full control of all seats of two of JEA branches, chemical and applied engineering, and the majority of seats in the remaining five branches.

The "White" or Islamists bloc won six out of the seven seats in the civil engineering sector. They also scored the same result in two other branches, the architectural and the electrical engineering. They won four out of seven seats in the mining and the mechanical sectors.

Wafa' Ahmad 'Ulayyan, who ran for elections in the architectural sector, was the only woman elected out of five women candidates Islamists, reacting to the recent controversy over the role of professional associations, say the outcome of elections shows the real political trend within the association—that the majority of members are against normalisation of relations with Israel. However, the figures do not exactly reflect the political trend of the majority of members.

The number of those who voted in the seven different sectors was 6,282, out of a total of 19,961 eligible

voters. The total number of JEA members is estimated at around 32,000.

As such, those who voted represented only 30 percent of those who have the right to vote. The percentage of voters to the total number of registered engineers does not exceed 17 percent.

His Majesty King Husayn in a recent speech stressed the need to separate politics from professional work at the unions.

He called twice in the past two weeks on the silent majority to come out and express its support for peace showing dismay at the stand of several associations who have threatened their members of dismissal if they made contacts with Israelis.

The King called on the associations to leave politics for politicians and asked the Higher Council for the Interpretation of the Constitution to rule on the legality of the powers exercised by the association.

But except for one demonstration staged by some 200 engineers last week, the majority of members of the JEA at least 13,000, abstained, not only from demonstrating, but also from taking part in their own elections.

The result of the seven sectors are indicators of the final shape of the JEA council. Islamists have secured at least three seats in the JEA council since they won full seats in two branches and six out of seven seats in the civil engineering sector, which is representative in the council by two seats. Except for the latter, the other six branches are represented by one seat each at the council.

Excerpt for the seats of the president and vice-president, JEA members do not have the right to nominate themselves as candidates for the council elections unless they were elected members to the councils of the seven different branches.

It is yet not clear whether Layth Shubaylat, the incumbent JEA president, will nominate himself for a second term.

**Reportage on Shelling, Clashes in South  
Israeli Shelling; Katyushas Fired**

*NC2711203495 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic  
1700 GMT 27 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Several towns and villages in the south came under Israeli artillery fire originating from the occupation forces positions in al-Zaffatah and Qal'at al-Shaqif this afternoon.

In retaliation for today's bombardment, the resistance fired two salvos of katyusha rockets at the Israeli settlements in the Galilee at dawn and noon today.

**More on Shelling, Katyushas**

*NC2811073395 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic  
0719 GMT 28 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] An Israeli military spokesman has announced that Katyusha rockets fell on Galilee today, causing grave material damage and wounding four people, according to preliminary reports.

Our information has it that 17 Katyusha rockets hit the settlements of Qiryat Shemona and Metulla. Israeli military sources said the rockets caused a fire in the woods near Qiryat Shemona and that most residents went to shelters.

**Katyushas Hits Hula**

*NC2811082195 Kafr Killa Voice of the South  
in Arabic 0803 GMT 28 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Terrorists fired Katyusha rockets at northern Israel this morning. Four people were hurt, and there was grave material damage.

We have just been informed that several Katyusha rockets landed in the center of Hula at 0930 today. Two houses were demolished.

Elsewhere, a landmine went off underneath a bulldozer this morning. The driver was hurt in the blast. He was transferred to the Marj 'Uyun hospital for treatment.

**4 Killed in Clashes**

*NC2811072895 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic  
0530 GMT 28 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] With the Barcelona conference discussing peace and stability in the Mediterranean basin, Israel has been stepping up its attacks on Lebanese land in the south and Western al-Biq'a'. According to NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondents' reports this morning, tension reigns supreme in the areas of al-Nabatiyah, Iqlim al-Tuffah, and Western al-Biq'a' due to Israel's continuing attacks over the past

few hours. Enemy troops bombarded several villages and towns. [passage omitted]

Retaliating for the enemy's attacks, Resistance men attacked enemy patrols and positions. The Amal Movement declared that one of its groups attacked the militia [South Lebanese Army, SLA] position in al-Kufayr, using machine guns and rockets. The Amal fighters destroyed the position's fortifications and killed or wounded the position's personnel.

Elsewhere, another group used mortars and rockets to pound the 'Alman position, destroying its fortifications. The Amal Movement pledges to its martyrs and its commander, Imam Musa al-Sadr, to pursue the Resistance path until victory. The Movement says the enemy bombarded the villages of al-Nabatiyah and Marj 'Uyun in addition to Wadi al-Saluq and the al-Litani River basin. The Movement announced the death of a fighter who was wounded during confrontations with the occupation forces on the Arnun combat line.

The Islamic Resistance announced the deaths of three fighters who fell during clashes with the enemy forces in the occupied strip.

**Al-Naqurah Border Point Closed**

*NC2811074495 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic  
0722 GMT 28 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] According to UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] sources, the area between al-Mansuri in the western sector and Qabrikha in the central sector has been coming under fierce Israeli bombardment since 0800 today.

Elsewhere, security sources say the Israeli forces have closed the Lebanese-Israeli border at al-Naqurah as a precautionary measure.

**Planes Said Conducting Mock Raids**

*NC2811084595 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed  
in Arabic 0832 GMT 28 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Enemy warplanes have been conducting mock raids over Iqlim al-Tuffah and al-Nabatiyah since morning. Rockets fell on enemy settlements in occupied Palestine. UN sources report that 17 rockets hit the border area and the settlements of Qiryat Shemona and Metulla. Enemy radio said five settlers were hurt and several houses were damaged when the Galilee panhandle was rocketed this morning. The radio added that the settlers were asked to stay in shelters.



### Reportage of Death of Hizballah Official Harb Killed in Car

NC2811092195 *Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic*  
0900 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Hajj Sa'id Harb, a member of Hizballah's security committee in Jibshit, was martyred by an explosion in his car this morning. It is not known if the explosion resulted from an explosive device or a rocket fired by an Israeli plane overflying the area at the time.

A passenger riding with Hajj Harb was wounded and taken to a hospital in Sidon.

The artillery bombardment of Majdal Silm, al-Sawwanah, Qabrikha, the periphery of Mayfadun, Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah has intensified since 1000 today. Shells have been falling at the rate of six per minute. Panic prevails in the area, all schools have been closed, and streets are empty of pedestrians. [passage omitted]

According to the most recent reports from the south, Israeli vehicles were seen moving along the dirt road on the edge of the township of Hula. [passage omitted]

### Air Raid Blamed for Death

NC2811093195 *Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic*  
0920 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] According to security sources, Israeli fighter planes raided the house of Hizballah official Sa'id Harb in Jibshit. Harb was killed in the air raid. The Israeli raid comes in retaliation for the firing of Katyusha rockets on northern Israel today. [passage omitted]

### Car Bomb Blamed for Death

NC2811102095 *(Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon*  
in Arabic 0945 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Our correspondent in the south reports that an explosive device was detonated this morning under the Mercedes 280 belonging to Sa'id Harb, Hizballah's leader in Jibshit. Harb was killed in the blast.

According to our correspondent in al-Nabatiyah, Israeli artillery deployed in Tallat al-Zaffatah has been shelling the Kafr Dijjal area and the Kafr Sir road between Shukin and 'Adshit for some time now. Israeli warplanes continue to fly successive sorties over al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah. [passage omitted]

Israeli military vehicles were seen along the dirt road on the periphery of Hula township, where one person had been wounded in the bombardment. At 0900 Israeli

helicopters overflew Bra'shit, Haddathah, 'Ayta al-Jabal, Haris, and Tibnin; they continue to strafe with heavy machine guns the wadis and hills surrounding these villages. Israeli planes also carried out mock raids over al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah.

### Hizballah Blames 'Zionists'

NC2811120195 *Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed*  
in Arabic 1133 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The treacherous and criminal hands of Zionism have played havoc anew with the security of our steadfast kin in Jabal 'Amil and Western al-Biq'a' in an attempt to demoralize the spirit of determination and the will for liberation embodied in the valiant resistance waged by the sons of the Islamic Resistance. Following the series of utter defeats inflicted on the enemy by Resistance heroes, the enemy resorted to his cowardly and treacherous methods. The enemy planted an explosive charge in commander Hajj Sa'id Mahmud Harb's car. His sacred soul was sent to heaven. Martyr Harb's blood has watered the 'Amil land, the blood of impending victory.

Martyr Commander Shaykh Sa'id Harb is an Islamic Resistance hero and fighter. Born in 1964, he took part in Resistance jihad action from the time of its inception in 1982. He was a student of the prince of martyrs, Shaykh Raghib Harb. He took part in several jihad operations and assumed various responsibilities in the Resistance. He was arrested by the Zionist enemy in 1984. He is survived by his wife and three sons. He was martyred in his home town of Jibshit on 28 November 1995, when an explosive charge planted by treacherous Zionist hands went off in his car.

### Islamic Resistance Vows To Strike Settlements

NC2811103795 *Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed*  
in Arabic 1009 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Islamic Resistance issued the following statement a short time ago: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O our honorable kin in the south and Western al-Biq'a', the recent repeated bestial attacks on our cherished south and Western al-Biq'a' by the Zionist occupation forces have taken various forms against our honorable kin and their property.

The treacherous hands of Zionism and its sophisticated war machinery have extended to carry out arbitrary and oppressive actions in the air, on land, and at sea. These hands and machinery have committed crimes against defenseless citizens. These practices were not restricted to the south and Western al-Biq'a'. The Zionist machine of destruction struck deep inside our liberated

areas, occasionally reaching the edges of the capital, Beirut, killing or wounding citizens and destroying several houses in al-Na'imah. The Zionist machine has been shelling areas daily, using internationally banned weapons, namely, nail and fragmentation bombs. These Zionist attacks are as big as a major offensive on our steadfast kin and villages. [passage omitted]

This excessive Zionist action and terrorism required the Islamic Resistance, which is committed to defending the honor and security of our people and villages, to respond to such action by firing barrages of Katyusha rockets at Zionist settlements in northern Palestine this morning. The rockets scored direct hits.

The statement concludes by saying that the Islamic Resistance, which took it upon itself to wage jihad and defend its land and kin, warns the Zionist enemy against continuing its aggression. The Islamic Resistance stresses that it will not stand idly by watching Zionist aggression. It will exercise its legitimate right to respond to the Zionist terrorism. It will strike with all its force Zionist security and settlements as long as it continues to play havoc with the security of our kin and villages.

**Information Minister Comments on Peres Remarks**

NC2811095095 *Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic*  
0610 GMT 28 Nov 95

[Telephone interview with Information Minister Farid Makari, in Beirut, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Abu-al-Majd] Minister, welcome to the Voice of the Arabs. Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres recently made remarks that, according to observers, revealed an Israeli wish to achieve progress on the Syrian-Israeli negotiating track. Naturally there is a link between the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. What reaction have Peres' remarks elicited in Lebanon? Do you expect to see progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks now that Peres has assumed the post of Israeli prime minister?

[Makari] The Syrian and Lebanese principles on peace are firm and known to everyone, particularly to the United States and Israel. If the Israeli prime minister is ready to deal with these firm principles, progress in the negotiations will be possible. If his remarks are a mere maneuver, they will meet the same fate as their predecessors. The firm Syrian and Lebanese principles on peace are based on UN resolutions and respect for Syrian and Lebanese sovereignty. If these principles are recognized, there will be no problem.

[Abu-al-Majd] Minister, Israel is always using Lebanese Resistance operations in south Lebanon as an excuse. It says it is willing to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425 if these operations are halted.

[Makari] I believe the statements made by His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi and the rest of the government are clear on this issue. The Lebanese Resistance is not assaulting the Israeli public. It is only defending its territory and is operating from its own homeland. All Resistance operations are being carried out from Lebanese territory, not outside. The president's position is clear on this. When Israel withdraws from Lebanese territory, there will no longer be any need to carry out Resistance operations. The Lebanese Army, now fully equipped and prepared, will maintain security on the border.

[Abu-al-Majd] Minister, are you optimistic about the peace process, specifically on the Lebanese track? Israeli assaults on Lebanon continue, yet there is a new government in Israel.

[Makari] It is not a question of optimism or pessimism, but of conviction. We have convictions about our rights. We demand our rights. This is Lebanese territory. The attacks that are launched are directed against Lebanese people and territory. God has thankfully given the Lebanese people the ability to endure. These attacks are disturbing. We sympathize with our people in the south. The south's wound hurts all Lebanon. But we feel we can continue to drink from this bitter cup until the Israelis withdraw.

[Abu-al-Majd] Minister, what are your views on Lebanese-Syrian ties?

[Makari] The current Lebanese-Syrian relationship is what we have always wanted, a relationship of fraternity, cooperation, and mutual assistance. As two neighboring countries, we need each other. We have the same problems, the same worries. We have a long-established relationship. The current coordination and cooperation between fraternal Syria and Lebanon serves both nations.

[Abu-al-Majd] At this important phase for Lebanon, following the extension of His Excellency President al-Hirawi's term, what are the Lebanese Government's priorities?

[Makari] The liberation of territory has always been the Lebanese Government's first priority. This is followed by the important tasks of reconstruction and raising the Lebanese people's standard of living. [passage omitted]

**Palestinian Factions Asked To Surrender Arms**

JN2711141995 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic  
27 Nov 95 pp 1,19

[FBIS Translated Text] Lebanon has asked the Palestinian factions in Lebanon to hand over their weapons or transfer them abroad, stressing that this is a final warning and that the security of Palestinian camps and figures is Lebanon's responsibility.

Lebanese sources said this decision has to do with anticipated developments in the Syrian-Israeli negotiations.

Palestinian sources in Beirut said they had received signals in this regard a few months ago, which were followed by other signals a few days ago from Damascus regarding the need to disarm Palestinian factions in Lebanon and take certain measures against their offices in the Lebanese and Syrian capitals. The sources, however, refused to specify the nature of these measures.

The sources revealed intensive contacts and meetings between the leaders of these factions to discuss the reasons and consequences of such measures in the wake of Syrian talk about an expected breakthrough in the negotiations with Israel. According to these sources, such a breakthrough should be preceded by goodwill gestures.

The sources added that the Lebanese factions, particularly Hizballah, were also asked to calm down the situation in southern Lebanon and transfer their fighters to areas far away from the confrontation lines with Israel.

Palestinian opposition sources said leaders of Palestinian factions and opposition figures requested a meeting with a senior Syrian official to discuss these developments, and they are still waiting for an answer.



**Al-Shar' on Peace Process, Other Arab Issues**

NC2711134095 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic  
20 Nov 95 p 16

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' by Carol Dagher on 18 November; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Beirut AL-SAFIR in its 21 November issue publishes the following "clarification" on page 1: "AL-SAFIR would like to draw the attention of its readers to the fact that the interview held by a team of its reporters with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' was not recorded. The paper's reporters presented the interview without literally reflecting the proceedings."]

What has changed after Rabin's death and what has changed in the Syrian stance that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has regarded as positive? To this, al-Shar' replies: I have stated previously that "this could turn out to be beneficial." I believe the message was clear, it has reached Shim'on Peres, namely that Rabin's death might help to boost the peace process, particularly as public opinion polls inside Israel show Peres is way ahead of his competitor in the Likud. Peres got 70 per cent compared with 28 percent for Benjamin Netanyahu. I believe Israel is leaning toward the peace trend. We realize Peres is different from Rabin on this point. He is really working for peace. Rabin's death was a shock for Israel and the Americans, in that their need for peace has become even greater.

Al-Shar' reiterated his statement that the climate prevailing in Israel and the United States before Rabin's death did not favor embarking on peace with Syria at this stage. They said: Stop. What has been achieved is enough. Let us postpone the Syrian file until after the elections. Rabin used to pay too much attention to the stances of the right-wing opposition and to what Netanyahu had to say in the Knesset. Rabin wanted to heed the right wing's positions and feared taking any steps before the elections.

But Peres, al-Shar' adds, differs on this point. He sees "peace as more important than the elections; possibly he would exploit the issue of peace in these elections."

Commenting on Israel's "surprise" that Syria did not offer condolences on this event, al-Shar' recalls the answer he gave CNN two months ago when he was asked to greet the Israelis on the Hebrew new year. The Syrian foreign minister replied then: "What is the use of words if I am not convinced of them? This thing usually happens between friends. Israel remains the enemy and is occupying our territory. I cannot say something that does not stem from a firm belief." Al-Shar' comments on

the importance of "formalities" for the Israelis, "while we are interested in the essence."

Al-Shar' explains: "The Jewish people act as if they are God's chosen people and superior to other peoples so that the whole world must be saddened by their sorrows and gladdened by their joys. The tragedy of others is not important for the Israelis. This has affected several issues." Noting the extensive U.S. participation in Rabin's funeral, he says: "Clinton came with numerous U.S. leaders and congressmen. This presence was electorally motivated inside the United States. Anyone who did not attend would be deprived of the Jewish vote and anyone who did not show direct sympathy would be subjected to a campaign to exclude him from the media that create personalities in the United States. The people do not know each other there. They only watch television. If anyone had absented himself, he would be opposed in the media and he could lose the elections."

Do you not think time is very important at this stage, when an opportunity is arising, enabling Syria to benefit from the increased popularity of Peres and the Israeli public's support for him, to adopt a position that would encourage the other party to take an initiative toward peace with Syria and to proceed with the negotiations?

Al-Shar' agrees with this view and says: "The interests of enemies might sometimes converge." This is happening today. There is in Israel an opportunity for progressing toward peace. This is the significance of the statement that this could turn out to be beneficial. But Syria, al-Shar' hastens to add, does not take a stand on individuals, but on particular policies. We, in Syria, made the strategic decision on peace but this does not change our stances, our demands, or our look at the comprehensive and just peace.

Al-Shar' adds: Peres is now compelled to continue the peace process, maybe at a quicker pace, because he has no option and no place with the extremists, who do not believe him. Shim'on Peres supports the comprehensive peace process. Rabin was hesitant and reserved, making "Israel's security" his priority to the extent that Israelis called him "Mister Security." [last two words in English] Rabin attached great importance to the reactions of the extremists and the opponents of the peace process.

Al-Shar' explains that Peres sees himself as a man who wants peace, a comprehensive peace. This is certainly a positive and encouraging sign. But the question is: To what extent can he achieve a comprehensive peace? It is most likely that the prime minister will appoint Ehud Baraq, not Yosi Beilin, as the foreign minister. This is because if Peres keeps Beilin in the Foreign Ministry, it might give the Israelis the impression that this duo will

cede Israel's security and that this government is one of "doves." Peres needs a strong link with the military establishment because he is not like Yitzhaq Rabin, the son of this establishment. Al-Shar' says he believes Baraq comes from the same school as Rabin. He is a hardliner and it would not be easy to negotiate with him.

Asked about the next stage and about the objective of the visit to Israel by U.S. coordinator Dennis Ross, al-Shar' says that Ross is coming to Israel at Peres' invitation. Israel's Ambassador in Washington Itamar Rabinovich will accompany him to brief the Israeli prime minister on the atmosphere of negotiations with Syria, because Rabin did not brief Peres on the file on the Syrian-Israeli track.

Continuing, al-Shar' says: In light of the information Ross will convey to Peres, the latter will express his opinion. Ross will then return to Washington carrying the new Israeli line. Ross might return to the region as part of a new tour that could pave the way for a shuttle tour by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

We asked al-Shar': What topics could be raised on the Syrian-Israeli track if the negotiations are revived? Will you go back to discussing the security arrangements? He says Peres backs negotiations on the four elements that are the bases of Israeli-Syrian peace, namely, full withdrawal from the Golan, the security arrangements, the timetable, and ordinary relations [*'alaqat tabi'iyah*].

We asked him if he meant normalization [*tatbi'*]? He says: We do not like the word normalization. We would rather refer to "the ordinary peace relations." The Syrian foreign minister explains that Syria has no objection to discussing the four elements if the issue of the full Israel withdrawal from the Golan Heights to the pre-4 June 1967 line is resolved. Israel knows Syria will accept nothing less.

Al-Shar' adds: The security arrangements must safeguard the two countries' security and sovereignty. Hence, we reject the land-based early warning system because we believe it violates sovereignty and contradicts the principle that emphasizes that the security of one side should never be at the expense of the other. This system also contradicts the principle of equality and that of the full withdrawal from the occupied territories. Therefore, the early warning system is practically a center to deploy troops. This will involve supply, maintenance, and rotation, he adds.

The Syrian foreign minister then touched on Israeli views on security. He says this issue has two parts: The first part deals with "the illusionary security," which is prompted by the historical fears of the Jewish people, who see themselves besieged and are afraid of their

surroundings. Accordingly, the Jewish people wonder whether the peace treaties signed today could be applied in 20 years. They also wonder whether a new team of rulers in an Arab country would also abide by these treaties. We are not prepared to discuss this aspect because we believe it is not the job of politics to resolve others' psychological complexes. We are not a hospital to treat such complexes, even if the Jews give precedence to this issue over others.

The other part is realistic and deals with the security arrangements that are supposed to be implemented on the two borders. But we insist on the principle of equality, of a balance. We will not accept a demilitarized zone on the Syrian side only. There should be a similar zone on the Israeli side.

Al-Shar' reveals that the Israelis deliberately raised the problem of warning systems during the military negotiations in Washington in June after agreement had been reached on the general principles of the security arrangements (equitability, equality, balance, demilitarized areas on both sides, deployment of international forces on the borders). The aim was to stall the negotiations without bearing responsibility by pointing the finger of accusation at Syria.

This prompted al-Shar' to declare that Secretary Christopher "came to us to ask for postponement of the negotiations. We are not the ones who prevaricated."

Al-Shar' reiterates Syria's stand in this respect: "If the Israelis are not ready to advance in the peace process now, then we have enough time and are not in a hurry." He recalled President al-Asad's statement that "the current situation is better than any that might arise as a result of hastiness."

In reply to a question on whether space warning stations are enough, he says: "Possibly, and more useful." He notes that the Israelis want to monitor telephone calls inside Syria through their land-based station in the Golan. But if the aim is to monitor the movement of military units, then the space station is more useful.

Al-Shar' explains Syria's rejection of land-based stations by saying: "The Israeli military arsenal is stronger and more vast, it has nuclear power, and enjoys the support of a super power like the United States while Syria has no super power to back it. In addition, their artillery can reach Damascus even after withdrawal from the Golan while our artillery does not reach Tel Aviv. Hence the Israeli reasoning is rejected." Al-Shar' stressed that the Americans have reached a certain degree of understanding and acceptance of the Syrian logic.

Commenting on the military negotiations that took place in June, he said: "It is true that there was no progress

but two fundamental points for Syria have been firmly established and become a fixture in the media, namely the full Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 line and rejection of the land-based warning stations on the basis of equitable security arrangements."

Does this mean that you are waiting now for Peres' approval of the space warning system?

Al-Shar' replies: "He does not have any other option."

Al-Shar' talks about Japan's readiness to participate in the international forces on the Golan Heights. He said that the Japanese parliament studied for a full year all the details pertaining to the region, its situation, the history of its conflicts, and the religious, cultural, geographical, topographical, and military data before deciding to send 50 non-fighting military personnel to be part of the international forces on the Golan. He adds that he recently received the Japanese prime minister's adviser who came without a single question on whether the Japanese team would be in any danger.

In reply to a question about the opportunities for reaching a settlement on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and whether he is optimistic, al-Shar' says: "Let us say that I am not pessimistic."

He underlines the convictions of the Americans, the Israelis, and the other Arabs that there will be no comprehensive peace without Syria and Lebanon. The recent Amman summit showed that the situation will not stabilize and "peace will not take off without Syria and Lebanon and there will be no normalization. The plan for a regional development bank also failed because some Gulf states (Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait) refused to finance it. The agreements concluded with the Palestinians and Jordanians are not enough.

Al-Shar' speaks about the history of the conflict between the Arabs and Jews, specifically with Syria. He said: I saw when I was recently in New York a film about a battle between the Jews and the Assyrians that took place 2000 years ago. Israel knows that it is fighting a battle with Syria and now acts as if it has achieved agreements with parties in the al-Sham province [greater Syria]. But it has not concluded an agreement with the capital (Damascus). Therefore what has happened is not enough. Peace must be concluded with Syria and Lebanon so as to have real stability in the region.

Touching on the U.S. role in pushing the Syrian-Israeli track ahead, al-Shar' pointed out that "the American conduct might change. Moreover, the Americans have a stake in backing the peace trend. This was demonstrated by recent U.S. statements and the backing accorded to Peres, in addition to an important thing involving

the pattern of dealings between the Americans and leaders in Israel. President Clinton can use an influential language with Peres, while he could not do that with Rabin; Rabin influenced the U.S. President."

Al-Shar' was asked why Syria refused to engage in direct negotiations with Israel and insisted on a U.S. mediator, leading it to be involved practically in negotiations with two parties: Israel and the United States. He said: "The American presence in negotiations has exceptional importance. First of all, we need a witness to what happens in negotiations because world media is more receptive to the Israeli stance. If there is a statement by the Syrian foreign minister and another by the Israeli foreign minister, the media tends to accept the latter's and believe it more readily.

"Second; the United States' role as a clean handed mediator is necessary. It is true that America and Israel are allies. Moreover, the U.S. mediation provides another guarantee concerning the contents of negotiations and the Israeli team's commitment to its pledges."

But negotiations in this way are transformed into "media negotiations." The U.S. officials make statements on the outcome of their visits and tours and brief the press on the proceedings of negotiations and discussions.

Al-Shar' replied: "This does not bother us; on the contrary, it benefits us. Through the American public role, our demands were accentuated [Takarrasat], demands concerning full withdrawal from the Golan to the lines of 4 June 1967 and our refusal to tolerate terrestrial warning stations." Apart from that "we insist on the written letter of guarantees we obtained from the United States, the letter which says that the United States does not recognize the annexation of any part of Golan."

Al-Shar' denied that America has offered Syria economic assistance in return for a peace agreement with Israel. He also affirmed that Syria has not asked Washington to cross out its name from the list of terrorism-harboring states. "If America views our clinging to the principles of sovereignty and the UN resolutions as parallel to terrorism, this is its own problem and not ours."

He said that the issue of holding Syrian-Israeli negotiations at the foreign ministers' level is not under consideration at present. He added: "We do not know right now how the talks will resume. What we do know is that we will not accept any step Israel needs if it is not consistent with our beliefs. We will face our people with nothing less than restoring our full rights of sovereignty and dignity."

Al-Shar' was asked about the future of negotiations on the Lebanese-Israeli track, since there is a belief that Syria's refusal to discuss this matter with the Americans



and Israelis is due to the fact that Syria stands to gain from the failure to resolve the Lebanese problem, from letting the Lebanese wait until negotiations with Syria are concluded, and from Lebanon's refrainment to accept an Israeli withdrawal from the south in exchange for security arrangements.

Al-Shar' replied: "It is true that the Israelis have tried to drag us into negotiations concerning Lebanon. We rejected that and will reject any attempt to drag us into negotiating on Lebanon's behalf. I would like to point out here that it is unfair to Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz to be accused by some politicians, like Dr. Albert Mukhaybir [former deputy speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies], of absenting Lebanon from the theater of negotiations. I would like to clarify that at a certain stage in the negotiations, Minister Buwayz presented a paper to the Israeli side, declaring Lebanon's willingness to adopt security arrangements to maintain security after the withdrawal of the Israeli army. But the response was disappointing. The Israeli side submitted a paper that absolutely failed to mention resolution 425. They believe that that resolution does not exist. They offered a formula Lebanon could never accept. Moreover, Israel is not content with security arrangements; it wants negotiations to arrive at a peace treaty with Lebanon. When it came to the security aspect it said:

— Redeployment. But it failed to specify whether the withdrawal would bring the Israeli army back to the international borders;

— It did not recognize resolution 425, but still wanted negotiations conducive to a peace treaty; and,

— It linked any withdrawal with Lebanon's ability to maintain security in the south during a period of six to nine months. They also requested the Lebanese Army eliminate the last resistance fighters in the region."

Al-Shar' adds: "These conditions are rejected and hard to accept. They will lead to a civil war in Lebanon. They do not secure the implementation of Resolution 425, although Syria would be happy and satisfied if Tel Aviv were to pull out its army from South Lebanon in exchange for mutual security guarantees with Beirut under which neither the Lebanese nor the Israeli side would initiate any military action from and against the territory of the other."

Al-Shar' adds: "Naturally, it is in Syria's interest that the Lebanese track not follow a separate path, the same as it is in Lebanon's interest that the Syrian track not follow a separate path to a solution." According to al-Shar', the Americans and the Israelis have recognized the importance of the two tracks' going in parallel, even

if they do not accept it, because they no longer insist on separating the two tracks. Despite this, al-Shar' insists that "we are not negotiating on behalf of Lebanon" and that "even if some believe that a strong Syria would gain Lebanon more than Lebanon would gain on its own, we do not accept replacing Lebanon."

There is some talk nowadays within Israeli and American circles about Israel's preparedness to declare its intention to fully withdraw from Lebanon and implement Resolution 425 without insisting on a peace treaty with Lebanon. According to this scenario, Israel clearly insists on holding Lebanon and Syria jointly responsible for maintaining law and order on the Lebanese side of the Israeli-Lebanese border, and if Lebanon and Syria failed to prevent attacks against Israel, Israel would strike at Lebanese and Syrian military targets in Lebanon. What is Syria's stand on this scenario and, if implemented, would it embarrass Syria and Lebanon?

To this, al-Shar' says: "First of all, this scenario presents an unclear and unacceptable position. It means that Israel will be free to move, reply, and initiate another incursion into Lebanon at any time it wants should any military action against it take place. Is this logical?" In the past, the Iraqis sent a booby-trapped car that killed approximately 400 Syrians in al-Azbakiyah district. Should we have responded to this by bombarding Iraqi territories or initiating a military operation? If Turkey is subjected to some operations by opposition elements, does this give it the right to carry out such operations? I believe this talk is unreasonable and illogical. Let Israel withdraw first to the international borders then allow the Lebanese Army to maintain security on the borders, as it should do. Is it true that Israel then would allow elements from the Lebanese Army to move with a tank along the borders to patrol? I doubt it. If Israel is prepared to fully withdraw from South Lebanon it must not put preconditions, but this is something that Israel does not want. I consider this scenario to be a mere tactical position.

What would be the fate of the Lebanese resistance in the south if there was a settlement and an Israeli withdrawal, particularly since everybody knows that Syria has influence over Hizballah as well as the Palestinian opposition movements?

Al-Shar' Says: "The Americans and Israelis fear and speak of a possible split within the resistance. They fear some extremist leaders may refuse to halt the resistance operations because their target is Jerusalem and not only South Lebanon. In our view, if the results to which the resistance men aspire are attained — the liberation of the land from occupation — then Syria could play its

role in persuading the resistance that its goals have been achieved."

Regarding the repercussions of what has happened in Israel on the Palestinian situation in particular and the Arab situation in general, al-Shar' referred first to the "reaction of King Husayn, who shed tears during Rabin's funeral, a scene that has aroused criticism within Jordan itself. The king noticed this when he returned to Jordan. Besides, Israel itself does not ask for so much sympathy from Husayn."

Regarding Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's reaction, al-Shar' said: "At first, we believed that his way of expressing his sorrow at Rabin's death — as he looked very sad — was not genuine. However, after consultations and contacts with informed people, it transpired that 'Arafat was one of the big losers of Rabin's death. There was a hot telephone line between the two men. (Gabriel Banon), a special adviser to Rabin, was a direct and special mediator between the two men. He accompanied 'Arafat to Rabin's house in Tel Aviv to offer his condolences to his wife, Leah. Despite the fact that Peres is the real man in charge of the Palestine file, 'Arafat acted as if Rabin was his real point of reference in the political and direct sense. 'Arafat relied on Rabin to protect the file and him personally."

Al-Shar' said that 'Arafat made a mistake the moment he gave up the joint Arab position and went for negotiations alone. 'Arafat, he said, had been preparing for this as soon as the Madrid meetings ended. We knew that 'Arafat opened every meeting of the PLO Executive Committee or of Fatah Central Council by saying that "Syria completed the details of an agreement with Israel and that they went ahead of us." 'Arafat was preparing for the Oslo agreement. Al-Shar' commented on 'Arafat's remark by saying: "Had we in Syria reached a peace agreement with Israel, we would not have done it without informing the Palestinians or before resolving their problem." He recalled a talk between President al-Asad and former Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, who came to him after 'Arafat's declaration in Tunis of an independent Palestinian state. Klibi said: "Mr. President why not exploit the Palestinian card in your hand?" President al-Asad replied: "I want to explain to you — and I say this for the first time — Syria is a card in the hands of the Palestinians and no one can take a step before resolving their problem."

Discussing the future of the Palestinian situation in the self-rule areas and the effect of Rabin's death, al-Shar' said: "We heard Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa talk about a Palestinian feeling of important transformations taking place in the West Bank and Gaza

that might lead to a Palestinian state. We heard from Faruq Qaddumi that 'Arafat was preparing to dissolve the PLO Executive Committee and that he attended the Executive Committee's latest meeting to prevent this. I believe, however, that these transformations will change nothing in the Israeli program for the future of the Palestinian situation. This program is based on fragmenting and dividing the Palestinians and preventing the establishment of a Palestinian state. The current security plans for the redeployment of the Israeli forces in the West Bank will keep the Israeli military presence so that any Palestinian who wants to travel between the West Bank cities will have to stop at the Israeli army checkpoints. Israel may consider expediting the establishment of a Palestinian state if the Palestinians agree to two things:

To consider the Jordan river the Israeli security border point, and agree to relinquish Jerusalem with its large geographic area, approximately 22 percent of the West Bank, and

Agree to the plan on the status of the holy places in Jerusalem without mentioning the Palestinian presence there."

He added: "There is a joint plan between King Husayn and 'Arafat to internationalize the holy places, to look like something of an international consulate."

Al-Shar' believes that the reaction of the Gulf countries, such as Saudi Arabia, will be more cautious. "Saudi Arabia will adopt a different position. It wanted to participate in the Amman summit. While I was in New York I was officially notified that Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal would personally participate in the Amman Summit, but he changed his mind at the last moment. This is an important position, so is the refusal of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Kuwait to fund the development bank, which led to the failure of the summit." He added: "I believe that following the latest bombing in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia will be more cautious in dealing with the settlement file." He did not rule out the possibility that the incident was "engineered domestically because Saudi Arabia had previously spoke of groups of extremists, such as the Salafi groups, and expressed its apprehensions. These groups do not exist in any other country and are completely different from the extremist groups present in other countries." He noted, however, that this may not necessarily create speedy developments in Riyadh because the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia uses extraordinary measures to control the domestic situation on the political and security levels.

Discussing the situation in Egypt, al-Shar' said that Cairo is trying to continue playing a basic role. It

fears attempts to keep it away from the main arena. He said that a certain dilemma imposes itself on Egypt. "It needs to complete the peace process in order to resolve its domestic problem represented in extremism in Egypt and the repercussions resulting from its separate agreement with Israel. Also, Egypt is apprehensive about the post-peace scenario, should the U.S. economic aid stop and Cairo's role be done away with."

Regarding Iran, al-Shar' notes the "continued good relations between Damascus and Tehran, and despite their dissatisfaction with and lack of desire for the current peace talks, the Iranians show understanding of what we are doing. They do not believe that peace is close and bet on Israel's inability to meet Syria's demands."

Regarding the situation in Iraq, al-Shar' is apprehensive about the difficult domestic situation there, but agrees on the view that Saddam's position is more solid after the defection of Husayn Kamil, which undermined the opposition. He reiterated that the report on Kamil Husayn's visit to Damascus is groundless. He warned against the plan proposed by King Husayn for federation in Iraq because this is tantamount to a division plan and all other forces which desire this can raise slogans of independence if the Jordanian King's plan is adopted.

Regarding the Barcelona conference, the Syrian foreign minister saw a big difference between it and the Amman Conference. The Amman conference, like the Casablanca Conference, was dedicated to the question of Arab-Israeli cooperation, and Israel was a major partner, the sole pivot, and a member of all the committees, while the Arab states participated only in the committees that concerned them. As for the Barcelona conference, it benefits both the Arabs and Europeans through a mechanism of cooperation between them. It is not a conference for cooperation between Arabs and Israelis. Israel is a party like all other parties and not the main party to the projects to be set up in the future. Its absence does not obstruct the conference, but its absence from the Amman conference would have canceled the very reason for convening the conference.

Al-Shar' attributed the European initiative to call for the conference to several reasons: Competition with the

Americans and Israelis in the region, emigration from the South to the North, the danger of terrorism, and economic relations.

Al-Shar' denied that the Americans had infiltrated the conference, that they will take part in the financial committees, and will control the method of distributing the aid. The Americans will only send observers to the opening session of the Barcelona conference. He disclosed that there is a disagreement on the phrasing of the conference's final communique. The disagreement centers on differentiating between terrorism and resistance. He explained that the existing problem on the paragraph related to terrorism is similar to the problem that took place in New York during the drafting of the communique issued by the heads of states and governments taking part in the UN's 50th anniversary. The Israelis and the Turks insist on not giving legitimacy to resistance. The Turks' excuse is that this may give legitimacy to the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) and the Israelis' use the resistance in South Lebanon as an excuse. Al-Shar' emphasized that Syria cannot abandon its demand, and "we rely in this battle on the successful battle we went through in New York, which resulted in issuing a communique stating the illegitimacy of occupations and foreign colonization of states." Al-Shar' adds that surprisingly, the head of the Israeli delegation to Barcelona was not aware of the communique issued during the UN 50th anniversary celebrations, with which we armed ourselves. He explained how the Americans and Israelis insisted on not raising the question of rejecting occupation and foreign colonization [in the New York communique]. In the meantime, Syria insisted that in that case Israel and the United States should announce their support for occupation and foreign colonization, something that embarrassed the two countries. As a result, the communique was passed and Syria won the battle, while Israel considered this support for terrorism.

Al-Shar' revealed that the same argument took place during the preparations for Barcelona. It was left up to the heads of the delegations to settle. He adds: "I am going to Barcelona for this particular point."



## Afghanistan

**Commentary: Pakistan Undermines UN Peace Plan**  
*LD2511183695 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network  
in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Nov 95*

[Unattributed BIA commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan's Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has once again stood in the way of the UN peace plan by presenting his own plan and interfering in Afghanistan's internal affairs, a BIA political commentator writes.

Experience has shown that the enemies of Afghanistan always sabotaged peace efforts for Afghanistan by various pretexts, and turning the situation into a stalemate. As a result of the Benazir Bhutto regime's interference, Mahmoud Mestiri's peace efforts could not reach a conclusion because on the one hand, the opponents of the government could not put forward a reasonable proposal, and on the other, the Taleban, who dream of capturing Kabul, sabotaged the Mestiri mission at Bhutto's instigation.

Based on its peace-loving policy, the Islamic State of Afghanistan has always welcomed efforts to restore peace in the country, and expressed its complete readiness to help resolve the country's problems. The Islamic state considers the only obstacle in the way of peace talks is foreign interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan — which is once again noticed in the form of Asif Ahmad Ali's opposition to Mestiri's proposed peace plan.

Now that Afghanistan peace negotiations have entered a critical stage, Benazir's regime, on the one hand, is intensifying the fighting by way of the Taleban militia, and on the other, its foreign minister has put forward his own plan for Afghanistan while outside his country.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan, while considering Asif Ahmad Ali's plan to be blatant interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, requests sources interested in peace in Afghanistan to understand the Benazir Bhutto government's interference, and to help ensure that it does not cause the failure of the peace process.

**Official Urges UN To Tell World About Taleban**  
*LD2611215595 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network  
in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The UN special mission for Afghanistan [words indistinct] should give information about the circumstances under which the Taleban group has been organized. In his letter to the UN Secretary General, Deputy Foreign Minister Abdorrahim Ghafur

asked him to give information to the forthcoming UN General Assembly session about the countries which assist Taleban in order that the UN General Assembly members know fully about the situation in Afghanistan. [Ghafur's letter reads:]

As you know about the military, political, and security situation of Afghanistan through your special envoy, more than a year ago a new phenomenon by the name of the Taleban emerged as an armed group. Their continuous strength and their being well-supplied, their links with foreign circles and their vague policies regarding human rights and political freedoms and their violation of international norms have caused the regional countries concern, especially in security and geopolitical terms. The Islamic State of Afghanistan bring this situation to your attention in line with Paragraph 1 of Article 35 of the UN Charter. It hopes that the UN special mission, which is going to present a report to the General Assembly about its peace efforts in Afghanistan under Paragraph 8 of the 20 December 1994 report, will answer the questions which the UN General Assembly members hold about the Taleban group. [Words indistinct] [letter ends]

Some questions have been raised about the identity of Taleban in the letter, and the deputy foreign minister has asked the UN secretary general to inform the international community about the grave situation in the Taleban controlled areas. [Words indistinct] wishes from you to circulate this letter in the Security Council and the General Assembly.

**Taleban Spokesman Disputes Casualty Figures**  
*LD2511135195 Tehran IRNA in English  
1306 GMT 25 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Peshawar, Nov. 25, IRNA — The Afghan student militia, Taleban denied on Friday [24 November] that 125 of its forces had been killed in recent clashes in east of the Afghan capital, Kabul.

The Afghan Government announced on Friday that some 125 Taleban militants were killed in battles with government forces in east of Kabul on Thursday.

A Taleban spokesman told IRNA in Peshawar on Saturday that only a few of their men had been wounded in the conflicts, while the government troops had suffered heavy casualties.

The Taleban claim to have captured the important region of Pol-e Charkhi and a few other strategic regions during clashes which started in the east of Kabul in the middle of the last week.

**High State Council Condemns Kabul Bombardment**  
*LD2611184695 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network*  
*in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] A session of the High State Council was held today under the chairmanship of Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. The Secretariat of the High State Council reported to us that the country's military and political situation was discussed in the session. The High State Council emphasized the political solution of the problems and condemned Taleban's recent military operations. It was mentioned during the session that while the solution of problems was being seriously assessed by the United Nations, insistence on fighting would have no result but destruction and further loss of life.

The High State Council strongly condemned today's Taleban air raid. The bombardment caused the martyrdom of a number of Kabul city residents, including children and women. A number of houses were also destroyed during the bombardment. This shows that the hiring Taleban group is ignorant of Islam and acts without mercy at the instigation of foreigners.

The High State Council asserted that the brave Islamic army [words indistinct], which had so far aborted all conspiracies, would in the future also heroically defend the territorial integrity and the independence of the country. Those who surreptitiously enter Kabul airspace and bombard residential areas will, in the very near future, be responded to with face to face fighting. Expressing its condolences to the bereaved, the High State Council has appointed a commission under the chairmanship of Acting Prime Minister Ahmad Shah Ahmadzay to closely inspect the affected areas and to [words indistinct] to the president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. [Words indistinct]

**Government-Taleban Clashes Continue Near Band-e Ghazi**

**Army Takes 15 Posts**

*LD2511165495 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network*  
*in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 November 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic army forces today captured 15 important security posts and positions in the mountain heights overlooking Band-e Ghazi and Botkhak. Quoting armed forces sources, BIA reports that during last night and today, the the Islamic army mujahedin cleared the scourge of Benazir Bhutto's Taleban from Gosfand-Dara and 15 important positions in Morchalgah, overlooking Band-e Ghazi. The positions are of strategic importance; the Taleban supply route in

the Band-e Ghazi gorge can now be subjected to heavy weapons fire.

During the operation, 22 so-called Taleban were killed and several light and heavy weapons captured.

According to recent reports, the Islamic army forces are continuing their advance toward Band-e Ghazi and Botkhat.

**Taleban Claims To Hold Position**

*BK2611085495 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network*  
*in English 0500 GMT 26 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Afghanistan, the Taleban movement says it is still holding the positions around 4 to 5 km from the capital. A spokesman for the Taleban refuted the claim of pro-Rabbani forces of having recaptured three strategic mountain posts. He said they were in full control of these areas and strengthening their positions.

Meanwhile, the UN special envoy on Afghanistan, Mr. Mahmoud Mestiri, is leaving Islamabad for New York today to submit a report on Afghanistan to the UN secretary general. He will discuss the Afghan peace plan with the secretary general.

The OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] deputy secretary general, Mr. (Ibrahim Bakr), has also met a number of Afghan leaders in Islamabad, Peshawar, and Jalalabad to find out a settlement of the Afghanistan conflict. Mr. (Bakr) is also to submit a report to the OIC secretary general, Mr. Hamid Algabid.

**Army Repulses Taleban Attack**

*LD2611161895 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network*  
*in Pashto 1430 GMT 26 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] An attack by Benazir Bhutto's Taleban was repulsed around Band-e Ghazi, and the Islamic Army forces captured their three fortified security posts in this direction.

According to another report, the governor of Qandahar Province's house was damaged during a huge explosion. BAKHTAR reports that a few days ago a bomb exploded next to the governor's house in Qandahar. As a result a number of the Taleban including Mulla Mohammad, a Taleban commander, were killed and Mulla Mesher [Taleban commander in Maydan Shahr] lost a leg. It is said that bomb was planted by the Muslim people of Qandahar against the hiring Taleban.

### **Taleban Fires Rockets Into Kabul**

**LD2711160295** *Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Five rockets were fired by Benazir Bhutto's Taleban into Kabul city today. The BAKHTAR correspondent reports that the rockets landed in the city's residential areas where one person was martyred and eight others were injured. Material damage as also caused.

### **India**

#### **Shabir Shah Urges Kidnappers To Release Hostages**

**BK2711163995** *Hong Kong AFP in English 1001 GMT 27 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar, India, Nov 27 (AFP) — Shabir Shah, the most prominent leader of the Moslem separatist movement in the Indian state of Kashmir, appealed Monday [27 November] to the kidnappers of four Western tourists to release the hostages.

"Set the four guests free immediately, Shah said in this summer capital of the strife-torn northern state, addressing the kidnappers through an interview with AFP. "It is inhumane to keep them for such a long time.

"If you (the kidnappers) are fighting to oust India from Kashmir as you claim, then let them go in the broader interest of the freedom struggle," he said.

Britons Paul Wells, 23, and Keith Mangan, 33, American Don Hutchings, 42, and German Dirk Hasert, 26, were kidnapped by the previously unknown Moslem separatist group Al-Faran while trekking in the Himalayas in early July.

A fifth Westerner, Norwegian Hans-Christian Ostro, 27, was abducted at the same time and decapitated by the kidnappers in mid-August.

Shah's appeal for the immediate release of the hostages came a day after Al-Faran threatened to kill the four unless the Indian government released 15 imprisoned Moslem guerrillas.

The Indian Government has ruled out exchanging any prisoners for the hostages and said a commando-style rescue operation would be too risky.

Kashmir government spokesman Kulbushan Jindiyal also called on the kidnappers on Monday to free the hostages, one of whom is reportedly in critical condition.

"We once again request the captors to set free the four considering the sentiments of the Kashmiri people and the relatives of the hostages," the spokesman said.

"We are still hopeful that the militants will respond positively to our appeal," he added.

Indian authorities believe that Al-Faran is a front for the Harkat-ul-Ansar guerrilla outfit, which kidnapped two British trekkers last year and released them unharmed after 17 days.

More than 12,000 people have died in separatist-related violence in Kashmir since 1989. India accuses Pakistan of fomenting insurgency in the disputed state but Islamabad denies the allegation.

#### **Commentary Welcomes Bosnian Peace Accord**

**BK2811110595** *Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 28 Nov 95*

[Commentary by John Cherian, special correspondent of the FRONTLINE]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The impossible seems to have finally happened. The longest running civil conflict in Europe since World War II has come to a grinding halt, at least for the time being, as the warring groups in Bosnia have formally signed a peace agreement in the small American town of Dayton in Ohio after three weeks of marathon negotiations. The Clinton administration has finally prevailed upon the three major actors in the ongoing Balkan tragedy — the Serbian president, Slobodan Milosevic; the Croatian president, Franjo Tudjman; and the Bosnian president, Alija Izetbegovic — to shake hands and initial a peace agreement on 21 November.

In three short weeks, Washington has succeeded where the European Union and the UN had failed after years of trying. All the three leaders had their own reasons for initiating the U.S.-brokered peace plan. Milosevic's Yugoslavia, the remnant of Tito's grandiose dream, has been suffering from the adverse impact of the UN embargo, which was imposed almost at the outset of the civil war in 1991. The Croatian Republic has been allowed to rearm and reconquer territory it had lost under the benign gaze of the West and NATO. The Bosnians, who have been under siege from both Serbs and Croats at different times, have been desperately seeking a way out. All the three parties have been extremely vulnerable to pressure from Washington, more so the Bosnian Serbs, who were sent reeling by the massive bombing engaged by NATO forces spearheaded by American jets.

As per the agreement signed, Bosnia will remain a single country with two component political entities — the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Serb Republic. The Serbs making up about 32 percent of the Bosnian population will be allowed to hold 45 percent of the



territory, but the major Bosnian Serb demand for the division of the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo, has not been acceded to. Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, has publicly voiced anger at the fact that the Bosnian Serb leadership was not taken into confidence when the peace deal was struck. Though he has said that he will fight against it only politically, he has also given the dire warning that Sarajevo has the potential of becoming another Beirut as a result of the latest peace deal. Sarajevo is an ethnically polarized city, though about one-third of the population is of mixed Muslim-Serb-Croatian parentage — a legacy of the secular Titoist regime.

But, as of now the peace deal seems to be on track. One of the important aspects of the peace accord is that all foreign forces will be out of Bosnia within 30 days and the two warring sides — the Bosnian Serbs and the Bosnian Muslims — will move behind cease-fire lines with a 2-km zone separating them. There will be a three-person executive presidency, one from the Serb Republic and two from the Muslim-Croat Federation. The central government in Sarajevo will have control over foreign policy and trade. Free and democratic elections are to be held next year. The Bosnian Muslims, who constitute about 42 percent of the population, could find themselves politically sidelined if the Croats and the Serbs decide to unite. There is a feeling among sections of the Bosnian Muslims that the Serbs, besides having a disproportionate swath of territory and a porous border with Serbia, could also outmaneuver them politically in the long run. Mutual suspicion and rancor still run deep after years of bloodletting.

The durability of the peace also depends to a large extent on the capabilities of the proposed NATO force comprising mainly of U.S. troops, which are to be deployed immediately provided the American Congress relents on its objections to President Bill Clinton's blueprint for maintaining peace in the Balkans.

#### **Minister on U.S. Arms to Pakistan, PRC Ties**

*BK2811095595 Delhi All India Radio Network  
in English 0830 GMT 28 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government is determined to take all necessary measures to counter the adverse effect of the U.S. military package to Pakistan. This was stated by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, in the Lok Sabha today. In a written reply, he said that the proposed transfer of advanced military equipment to Islamabad will not promote peace, security, and stability in South Asia. Pakistan's clandestine acquisition of nuclear weapon technology and material as well as ballistic missiles from third countries should also be noted in the context of the

proposed transfer of the U.S. arms. Mr. Bhatia said that the U.S. Government officials have stated that they have no intention of trying to dismantle the Pressler Amendment as a whole, or of extending the one time waiver to include F-16 aircraft later. The minister said India's serious concern has been conveyed unambiguously to the U.S. Government on the release of the \$368 million worth of advanced U.S. military equipment.

In another reply, the minister expressed satisfaction on the improvement of bilateral relations between India and China. He informed the members in the Lok Sabha that the two countries are working to develop a long-term stable and good neighborly relations. The bilateral trade in 1994 was of \$895 million, which represents an increase of 32 percent over that of the previous year.

#### **Sri Lankan Group Seeks Government-LTTE Mediation**

*BK2711143695 Delhi All India Radio Network  
in English 1230 GMT 27 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The secretary general of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front, EPRLF, has appealed to New Delhi to mediate to bring the Sri Lankan Government and the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] to the negotiation table. In an interview to a news agency in Colombo today, Mr. Suresh Premachandra said that India is the only country, which is capable to mediate for the purpose. He pointed out that if India refuses this, it would lead to intervention by Western countries, which may destabilize the Indian Subcontinent. The EPRLF had supported the Indo-Sri Lankan accord of 1987.

#### **Namibian Prime Minister Pays Official Visit**

##### **Arrives on Week-Long Visit**

*BK2511142495 Delhi All India Radio Network  
in English 0830 GMT 25 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Namibian prime minister, Mr. Hage Geingob, arrived in New Delhi this morning on a week-long visit to India. He was given a ceremonial reception at the Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House]. The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao; his cabinet colleagues, the lieutenant governor of Delhi, Mr. P.K. Dave; and civil and military officials were present on the occasion.

Later speaking to newsmen, Mr. Geingob said Namibia will sign agreements with India to boost bilateral trade. He said his discussions with Indian leaders aim at strengthening the traditional relations between the two countries.

Later, the Namibian prime minister called on the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, in the Rashtrapati Bhavan. The two leaders discussed economic and other matters of mutual interest. Mr. Geingob expressed his gratitude for India's assistance to Namibia. The president hosted a lunch in honor of the visiting dignitary.

#### **Backs Delhi for UN Seat**

*BK2611072695 Delhi All India Radio Network  
in English 1530 GMT 25 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Namibia has conveyed its support for India's candidature for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council.

The visiting Namibian prime minister, Mr. Hage Geingob, has also favored democratization of the world body. Mr. Geingob, who met the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, today, expressed his country's desire to expand cooperation with India. He especially referred to the trade agreements to be signed by the two countries on Monday [27 November] and hoped that this will boost bilateral trade in several areas.

Earlier, Mr. Geingob was given a ceremonial welcome at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House]. The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, his cabinet colleagues, and others were present. Talking to newsmen, Mr. Geingob said the focus of his discussions with Indian leaders will be on further strengthening the traditional relations between India and Namibia.

#### **Attends Trade Accord Signing**

*BK2811011995 Delhi All India Radio Network  
in English 1530 GMT 27 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and Namibia today signed an agreement for increased bilateral trade and a memorandum of understanding for cooperation in portable groundwater resources in Namibia. The agreement for trade was signed by the minister of state for commerce, Mr. P. Chidambaram, and the Namibian minister for basic education and culture, Mr. John Mutorwa, in the presence of prime ministers of both the countries in New Delhi today. The memorandum of understanding was signed by the secretary, west, in the Ministry of External Affairs, Mr. V.K. Grover, and the high commissioner of Namibia in India, Mr. Joel Kapaunda.

#### **Speaks at Delhi Dinner**

*BK2811071195 Delhi All India Radio Network  
in English 0245 GMT 28 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has offered to share its expertise in the fields of agriculture, science and technology and human resource development in Namibia.

Speaking at a dinner hosted in honor of the Namibian prime minister, Mr. Hage Geingob, in New Delhi last night, the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao said New Delhi looks forward to further expanding and deepening cooperation in various fields with Windhoek. Welcoming Mr. Geingob, who is on his first visit to India as prime minister, Mr. Rao recalled India's consistent support to Namibia's independence struggle.

In his reply, Mr. Geingob reiterated his country's support for New Delhi's candidature for permanent membership in the UN Security Council.

Earlier, both signed an agreement for increased bilateral trade and a memorandum of understanding for cooperation in potable ground water resources in Namibia.

#### **Iran**

##### **Velayati Addresses U.S. Sanctions, Nuclear Issue**

*AU2811100895 Vienna DER STANDARD in German  
28 Nov 95 p 2*

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by Artur K. Vogel in Tehran; date not given: "We Are Not Isolated, the United States Is"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Vogel] You are hardly ever in Tehran because you always travel. Your country seems to be less isolated than the United States intended by its trade embargo.

[Velayati] Right, Iran is not an isolated country. Perhaps the United States itself is isolated. Regarding its economic sanctions against Iran, it has found no one to join in.

[Vogel] Nonetheless, your country's image is not the best. Iran has been suspected, for instance, of planning to acquire the atom bomb.

[Velayati] We only want to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. In this connection, we have concluded agreements with China and Russia within the framework of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

[Vogel] Another charge is the reproach that your country supports terrorism. What relationship does your country have with Hizbollah in Lebanon, for instance?

[Velayati] We have good relations with Hizbollah because it is a legitimate political party in Lebanon. Hizbollah defends the Lebanese people and fights for the liberation of the southern part of Lebanon, which is occupied by Israel. It has been supported by the governments of Lebanon, Syria, and Iran. The UN Security

Council has adopted Resolution 425 calling upon Israel to withdraw from these occupied territories. What we are doing in Lebanon does not violate international law.

[Vogel] You said Iran supports Hizbollah morally. But several years ago, I saw Iranian Revolutionary Guards in the El Bika Valley in Lebanon with my own eyes.

[Velayati] Some of them are there as advisers, based on an agreement concluded by us and Syria.

[Vogel] How many?

[Velayati] I do not know.

[Vogel] Dozens, hundreds, thousands?

[Velayati] No, not many.

[Vogel] What relations does your government have with Sudan? You have been accused of maintaining training camps for guerrillas who then operate in Egypt and other Islamic countries.

[Velayati] We have denied this categorically. These are the usual accusations by the United States against us.

[Vogel] Then there is Khomeyni's fatwa against Salman Rushdie. Your government refuses to retract this fatwa.

[Velayati] The British know that no one can settle a fatwa.

[Vogel] Not even a living Ayatollah, if the fatwa was pronounced by an Ayatollah who died some time ago?

[Velayati] No. But as our president said, the Iranian Government will not send death squadrons after Salman Rushdie.

[Vogel] But there is still the head money of \$2 million on Rushdie.

[Velayati] This is not a government action. We are not responsible.

[Vogel] Iran has resolutely rejected the agreement signed between Yasir 'Arafat and Israel. What vision do you have personally of the future of the Middle East?

[Velayati] Yes, we are opposed to the agreement that Mr. 'Arafat concluded with Israel. We believe that the spirit and substance of this agreement are aimed against the Palestinian people's interests. Millions of refugees are still living in camps in the neighbor countries. What happened in the past two or three years shows that no just, honorable, and peaceful solution can be found in this way.

[Vogel] You are basically against the existence of the Jewish state....

[Velayati] We believe that Palestine belongs to the Palestinians. Thank you.

#### **Rafsanjani on Political Parties, Bosnia, UAE**

*LD2411205595 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1445 GMT 24 Nov 95*

[Dialogue between President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and 'Ali Larijani, head of Iran's television and radio network, at inaugural ceremonies for the opening of the Tehran-Network, Iran's fifth television channel, in Tehran — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Larijani] We have an important election in the next few months — the new round of Majles elections. Considering that you have held important posts since the revolution, you are in the best position to appreciate the position of the Majles, particularly since you were the Majles speaker for a long time. Now, what type of people are suitable for the legislative body? What is your advice to the people?

[Rafsanjani] My first impression is that people can more or less determine the people who are useful for them. Therefore our aim could be achieved in a free election. Competent people can attract the majority vote and these competent people can come forward. Of course people should be somewhat guided through the election debates. The needs of the Majles should be spelt out, the needs of the country should be announced. We need all sorts of forces in the Majles. Majles should be a comprehensive place. The candidates should understand cultural issues — religious issues in particular. They should have a deep understanding of economic issues, they should understand domestic and foreign policy, they should have some experience of administrative affairs, they should know the meaning of administrative work and management, and they should understand the country's affairs.

I fear that if I go into details it might be interpreted as a form of campaign for a group of those who want to become candidates. As the president I refrain from this. If I was speaking for a party campaign or as a thinker who preferred one group to another I could have gone into more details. But answering your question, I cannot go much further.

[Larijani] Mr. Hashemi, the media has taken an interest in that there are no strong parties in Iran. Of course we witness the presence of parties inside the country. But maybe they do not have the power that parties have in other countries where two parties seriously compete for power. But there are many small parties in Iran which participate in elections. How do you see the presence of powerful parties in society, in our society, presently? Do you think it is positive?



[Rafsanjani] Yes it would have been better, if it was possible, to have had serious parties in the country, and if those who entered the parties — for the party's aims, ideals, and policies — would have acted responsibly toward it, and if once they had a majority in the Majles they would naturally form the government, and the government could then enjoy a Majles which had similar views and acted in coordination. These are the positive points of the existing democratic methods. But the question that must be asked is whether such parties could easily achieve power in Iran? We should of course open the way so they can.

From the early days of my executive work I have repeatedly emphasized that our constitution has demanded a pluralist system of parties. If parties were formed seriously I would support them. But parties which exist are only groups really. They are not nationwide parties which could influence elections. We do not have such parties in the country. We have to work. If there is going to be an election system, as it is in the present, and which is intended to be, then there must be party activity.

[Larijani] Your Excellency Mr. Hashemi. I have a question on foreign policy. We are witnessing some sort of peace in Bosnia these days. During the few years of war the Muslim nation of Bosnia suffered a great deal of hardship, a great deal of unjust hardship. How do you see the current peace agreement between various groups of Croats, Serbs, and Bosnian Muslims? Is it going to last? Is it a suitable peace for Muslims?

[Rafsanjani] Even some of the gentlemen who signed are saying that it was not a just deal. But in the present circumstances they had no other choice. My opinion is that the rights of Muslims were not restored. The rights of Bosnia, an independent country which is also a member of the United Nations, have not been restored. Some kind of a half-backed partition has been imposed on the country; even though they are not prepared to call it partition. But, in any case, the president of Bosnia has signed the agreement, perhaps he know his country's circumstances better than we do. [passage omitted]

I think we, the Islamic countries, and the well-wishing people of the world should try to restore their [the Bosnian people's] rights. This is not the end of the task, it is the beginning of it.

[Larijani] Is the Islamic Republic willing to get involved in the reconstruction of Bosnia in a more serious manner?

[Rafsanjani] Yes of course. If the domination-seeking foreign powers do not interfere, I assume that the world of Islam is prepared to provide a great deal of assistance

to compensate damages caused by the war. We would also be one of the countries in the forefront of those willing to give them any kind of assistance. Bosnia is a rich country and its reconstruction is not very difficult. It is just like one of our country's provinces. You imagine if we had only the province of Kermanshah to reconstruct, how easy it would have been. If the entire world of Islam helps then the country can be reconstructed very fast.

[Larijani] There is an historic experience about these types of wars that even though such international agreements may refer to war crimes but their cases are never followed up. Do you think that the issue of war crimes in Bosnia will be followed up?

[Rafsanjani] I am not very optimistic about that. I do not think that they would go that far. These are partly slogans. But if we want to prevent others from committing such crimes, I think it would be very appropriate to follow up the matter. This is a test for the West and others who claim to support international courts to show that they are honest. We should not make a negative judgement on this yet. We should wait and see what happens.

[Larijani] The issue of the Iranian islands [Greater and Lesser Tumb and Abu Musa] which are the object of certain claims by the UAE is raised quite often in the media these days. Also recently some discussions took place between experts from Iran and the UAE in Qatar. Do you regard these talks as positive? Do you think that they will produce any results?

[Rafsanjani] I regard the talks as positive in themselves. However, I do not believe that it is appropriate to have talks along with statements and proclamations. Of course, the reason why they have not taken place yet has not been our fault — because we took the initiative and even went to the UAE at the level of foreign minister and held talks there. It was their turn to come to Tehran to continue the talks here. However for some reason that they may know but we do not understand, they procrastinated and issued statements and news reports.

Even this step which was taken was due to Iran taking the initiative. Although it was their turn to come to Tehran we agreed to a third place [Qatar] in order to hold talks at expert level. Of course, that meeting was only for deciding on the methods of talks, the contents of future talks, and to pave the way [for further talks].

In any case, it is in the interest of the world of Islam and our region that these talks continue. Either they come to Tehran or we go there, but they should be held in turn. From the start, no side should think that it must achieve everything in the talks. In any case, the talks themselves,

the comings and goings, the presentation of proofs and such like will clarify the truth and gradually the people of the two countries will also begin to learn the truth and what is just and legitimate will come about.

If any side thinks that in such a conflict the other side will easily accept to put some of its soil at the disposal of the other side, this is a mistake. The most difficult talks are those which concern territory, because no government would allow itself and would regard itself justified to easily give up its own territory. This is one of the most difficult signatures [as heard]. Therefore, there should be a great deal of talks, the issue should be clarified, the people of each country should realize what is the limit of their rights so that they can then sign [an agreement]. [passage omitted]

#### **IRNA Reports on Rafsanjani Budget Speech**

*LD2611212095 Tehran IRNA in English  
1116 GMT 26 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 26, IRNA — President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Sunday [26 November] presented the rls. 138,311 billion budget bill for the year 1375 (March 1996-March 1997).

It is the second annual budget bill submitted by the president in the second five-year development plan (1995-1999).

Speaking at the open session of the Majles, the President lauded the leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i for his continuous guidelines concerning the main principles of the second development plan as well as the Majles and the government for their relentless efforts in this regard.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani said the budget bill for the next calendar year has been estimated at rls. 138,113.4 billion, showing an increase of 43.8 percent compared to the last year's budget.

Putting the government's general budget as rls. 60,742.3 billion, the president added that the figure registered a 30.9 percent rise compared with the government's general budget in 1374.

The budget belonging to the state-owned companies, profit making institutes affiliated to the government and banks has been estimated at rls. 902,484 billion, up by 41 percent compared to 1374, the president said. Of this figure, he added, rls.79,928.4 billion belonged to state-owned companies, rls. 1,935.7 billion to profit making institutes affiliated to the government and rls. 8,384.3 billion to banks, he said.

Administering social justice and backing the less privileged strata of society, economizing on general

budget expenditure as much as possible and keeping the budget balance, and maintaining the government's borrowings from banking system at zero level are the three main goals of the 1375 budget bill, he said.

The incomes stipulated by the 1375 stand at rls. 54,369.3 billion showing an increase over 28.5 percent compared to the figures approved in 1374. Some 19.6 percent of this figure come from tax incomes, 51.5 percent from oil incomes and 28.9 percent from other income sources of the government.

Out of the total incomes of the government for 1375, 25.5 percent is to be earned from taxes on oil and gas, electricity, post and telecommunication services, 29.2 percent from sale of hard currency, 34 percent from income-expenditure items and 11.3 percent from other items.

The president pointed out that the increase in tax incomes for 1375 is mainly owing to a rise in taxes levied on non-governmental companies, on jobs and on imports which would be materialized through the improvement in the country's economic situation and expansion of trade and manufacturing activities inside the country.

The president further pointed out that the figure for current expenditure in the next year's budget bill is rls. 31,934.7 billion, up by 15 percent compared to the 1374 budget.

He added that the figures related to the rise in salary of the civil servants, transfer payments and grants in the 1375 budget bill amounted to rls. 10,950 billion, accounting for 20 percent of the government's total general budget.

A rls. 1,260 billion credit has been allotted to promotion of cultural activities and encouraging non-governmental sector to contribute to this goal, the president said, adding that the figure showed an increase of 40 percent compared to this year's budget.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani also said that in the 1375 (next year's) budget the government has paid special attention to the vulnerable strata of society, by increasing the budgets of organizations responsible for supporting this group of people from rls. 1,243 billion to rls. 1,656 billion.

The president added that with the rise in the budget set aside to support the vulnerable strata of society, some 1.3 million families consisting of 4.5 million people will come under the government's protection.

According to the president, the current expenditures in social sectors including education and training, health

and health care, social security and defence has risen sharply. he added that current expenditures in defence, education and training and health care will be rls. 5,900, 5,256 and 18,965 billion respectively, up by 31, 41.7 and 11.2 percent.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed out that in the next year's budget, the current expenditures for importing oil products has been cut by 27.8 percent due to the policies adopted by the government to economize on consumption of such products.

He said the next year's development credits have risen by 53 percent to rls. 22,684 billion. Thus, he added, the ratio of development expenditures to the government's total general budget would reach 42 percent, which lend proof to an eye-catching improvement in the composition of the government's general budget expenditures when compared to the 34.8 percent figure in this year's budget.

The president further said that the credits allocated to provinces for the year 1375 stood at rls. 2,492.2 billion, 16.2 percent more than this year's figure. The credits will be spent on meeting the educational, health care and infrastructural needs of provinces such as road building, supply of electricity and drinking water and production facilities for rural areas.

Credits earmarked to the deprived regions in the next year's budget amount to rls. 600 billion, up by 22 percent, he said, adding that 77 percent of the figure come from the provincial credits and the remaining 23 percent from the national budget.

The president said of the funds allocated to elimination of deprivation, rls. 76 billion would be spent on implementing self-employment projects.

Some rls. 700 billion in credits has been allocated to reconstruction projects and payment of compensations to people which once expensed 85 percent of all reconstruction operations would be completed, he said.

According to the president, the 1375 budget for state companies, banks and profit making institutions affiliated to the government stood at rls. 90,284 billion accounting for 65.3 percent of the country's total budget.

Rafsanjani said the government would provide 31 million square meters of land for building 93,000 residential units and would pay a part of the banking charges on the loans granted for buying houses as well as offering banking subsidies to teachers.

He said the government would help prepare good grounds for investment in housing through forming credit cooperatives and housing investment companies

envisaged in the budget-plan of the year 1375 (1996-97).

The president said the government is to finance the building of 50,000 units in the form of residential complexes, 90,000 low cost houses in the cities and 75,000 houses in rural areas.

On the cultural broadlines of next year's budget plan, he said the government has planned to make use of untapped talents in the cultural and artistic sectors, promoting free education, involving the private sector in cultural and artistic activities, qualitative and quantitative boost in radio and television programmes of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) in both the internal and external services.

He said the budget plan has taken into consideration the building of 131 public libraries, 46 cultural and artistic complexes, 27 guest houses to promote tourism and launching the Islamic satellite, the European satellite, the provincial television networks, the telemetric radio for the youth.

In the labour sector, he said the government is to support and save job opportunities by removing obstacles in the way of production units, increasing output, classifying jobs and reducing the risk of labour accidents.

He said the budget plan has envisaged to make use of 32 educational, technical and vocational centers, 26 sports complexes with 8,000 job opportunities.

He said a number of the industrial projects would go on stream next year including eight food and pharmaceutical producing plants with 50,000 tons capacity, chemical and celluloid industry with a total capacity of 342,000 tons, metallic industry with 20,000 tons capacity, a lamp manufacturing plant, two automobile spare parts plants and six non-metallic plants with the annual capacity of 4.7 million tons.

President Rafsanjani said work next year over 2,300 kms of roads and 800 kms of railway would become operational including the 165-km Mashhad-Sarakhs track designed to link the Iranian railway to the central Asian network.

He said the volume of cargo transportation would reach 25.5 million tons compared with the current year's 23 million tons of cargo.

On the cooperatives sector, Rafsanjani said the government would help set up 3,600 cooperatives with a membership of 319,600 to bring 850 projects into operation, thereby creating 45,460 jobs with an investment of rls. 3,356 billion which in turn would enable the building of 70,000 residential houses.



On postal service, he said the number of parcels are expected to rise to 600 million next year from the current year's 500 million parcels and the number of experts compared with the total number of the staff in mechanized postal centers would increase. He said the telecommunications company would provide 450,000 new telephone lines, while the number of villages connected to the national telephone network would reach 2,220. The subscribers of the mobile telephone lines would also increase. 155 new post offices in the cities and 850 post offices in the rural areas would be opened.

Part of the international project of optic cable would be carried out and the telecommunications company would set up international telephone links to 2,000 villages next year, he said.

He said the government would inject rls. 780 billion in public health insurance.

On the government's plans to build warehouses, Rafsanjani said new silos would become operational next year with a total capacity of 341,000 tons. In the rural areas wheat storing capacity is to rise to 320,000 tons, fodder storing to 298,000 tons and 100 other multiple stores and 10 cold storages.

On the agricultural sector, he said, the water resources of the country would be used through promoting irrigation to irrigate 3.5 million hectares of farmland. The insurance of agricultural products would be raised. The Agricultural Ministry has foreseen red meat production to rise 685,000 tons, poultry to 660,000 tons, fish to 450,000 tons, milk to 4.7 million tons and 7.17 million tons of protein either from livestock or fishery.

President Rafsanjani said studies are underway to help improve the life standards of 83,000 tribal families, choosing centers for development of tribal way of life for 20,000 families, preparing installations to house 20,000 tribal families and help other 180,000 tribal families use fossil energy.

On protection of the environment, he said the budget plan has envisaged to build about 3,000 hectares of green areas in six large cities, developing the natural habitat, building natural history museums and opening a center for monitoring toxic gases in Tehran.

On replacing fossil energy with other forms of energies, he said the government has planned to set up wind-powered plants with magnitude of 100 megawatts in the next four years.

On the defence sector, he said the next year's budget plan has allocated rls. 5,900 billion for defence up by 30.7 percent compared to the current year's budget.

#### Further on Budget Presentation

*LD2611124695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian*  
1030 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani attended this morning's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles and presented the country's budget bill for the year 1375 [beginning 21 March 1996].

[Begin Hashemi-Rafsanjani recording fading into correspondent's report] The country's budget for the year 1375 is estimated to be equivalent to 138.113 trillion rials. When compared to the budget figure approved for the year 1374 [the current Iranian year] it [next year's budget] is increased by 43.8 percent.

The sum of 60.742 trillion rials of the total budget is allocated to the government's general budget, which has increased by over 30.9 percent when compared to the figure for the current year. [passage omitted]

Before presenting the budget bill, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani praised his eminence the leader [Khamene'i] for his guidelines concerning the Second Development Plan. He also lauded the Majles and the government for their sincere cooperation and expressed the hope that next year's budget can pave the way for the implementation of the Second Development Plan in an effective manner. [passage omitted]

The president said the country's defense needs during the next Iranian year were 5.9 trillion rials. This figure has increased by 30 percent compared with this year's figure. [passage omitted]

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the government's plans in the fields of oil and gas during the next year and said: Among the government's most important plans are to increase the production capacity of crude oil to reach 4.25 million barrels per day [BPD], to increase gas production capacity from independent gas fields [as heard] by 110 million cubic meters per day, to benefit from the production capacity of the Bandar 'Abbas refinery to the level of 232,000 BPD, and to make the Khorasan and Tabriz petrochemical plants operational. [passage omitted]

#### Mirzadeh Outlines Provisions of Budget Bill

*LD2711160995 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian* 1530 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The head of the Plan and Budget Organization said: If a province makes savings in the consumption of basic goods, a sum equivalent

to the value of the goods in rials will be added to the development budget allocation of that province.

At a news conference today Mr. Mirzadeh described the characteristics of the budget for 1375 [corresponding to 1996-97]. He said: In the budget bill, in addition to forecasting the necessary allocations for completing incomplete industrial projects and strengthening the country's agricultural sector and quick-return, job-creating projects, the agricultural sector and the provision of agricultural water are given special attention.

He estimated the country's foreign currency revenues next year at about \$15.9 billion. He said: In 1375 about \$1.6 billion of the country's foreign debts will be repaid. He went on to say: Next year the rate of exchange for exports will not exceed 3000 rials [to the dollar].

#### Column Answers Question on Anti-U.S. Stand

NC2611212795 *Tehran SALAM in Persian*  
11 Nov 95 p 2

[From the "Special Answer to Telephone Calls" column]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Unidentified caller] I would like to ask you, the standard-bearers of the anti-U.S. struggle, a question. Is it not an old and ancient policy for a country to magnify a foreign enemy—for example, the United States—in a bid to blame its domestic problems that stem from bad management and other issues on enemies outside its border? There are countries that have positive relations with the United States and are achieving economic growth, without losing their independence.

[SALAM] If we are to succeed in the fight against the United States we will thank God for this blessing and will want Him to safeguard us always from reaching a compromise with this arrogant oppressor. As for what our dear reader has said on magnifying a foreign enemy, the truth is that the United States is a dangerous enemy that should never be underestimated.

An inept political deceiver has said that years ago when the Imam stated that our relations with the United States were like relations between a sheep and a wolf and questioned our need for such relations, we were weak, but that today we are strong and we should not worry about the establishment of relations. But the United States, as the Imam stated, is the great Satan and is always striving to deceive nations, especially those nations that have a great revolution as their basis, have overthrown the shah, have occupied the den of spies, and have disgraced the United States before the world.

During the shah's regime, the United States coveted our vast resources and wanted Iran as a safe base from which to control the region. Our common borders with

the former Soviet Union too created a special situation for the United States. But today, in addition to its wish to reestablish its domination over our rich resources and to use Iran as a big market to sell U.S. goods, the United States wishes to break the Islamic Revolution. Today, the United States' utmost wish is to stifle the oppressive cries of the oppressed and plundered Muslims who have experienced an Islamic rebirth. Today, the United States' utmost wish is to remove the serious obstacle in front of the disgraceful compromise between the Arabs and Israel. Therefore, such an enemy should not be underestimated.

Today even powerful European countries are confronting the United States' hegemony and excessive demands and want to create a new order and give a new interpretation to their relations with the United States so that they will be able to rebuild and safeguard an identity that is independent from the United States on the international scene. In conclusion, we would like to say that yes, we too believe that all our domestic problems should not be attributed to plots by foreign enemies so as to distract the public from a correct understanding of issues, something that we can see in some cases.

#### Airspace 'Violations' by Iraqi Forces Protested

LD2711220395 *Tehran IRNA in English*  
2143 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations HQ (NEW YORK), NOV. 27, IRNA — Iran's permanent representative to the UN released a statement calling on the UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali to take appropriate measures to stop the allied forces operating in Iraq from violating Iran's air space.

The statement faxed to IRNA reads that the airplanes of the allied forces operating in Iraq repeatedly violate the airspace of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the western, south-western and southern border of Iran as well as the Persian Gulf territorial waters.

The statement gives a list of 15 such violations in June and July this year and appeals to the UN chief to circulate the letter as a document of the Security Council.

#### Radio Views Palestinian Groups' Election Boycott

NC2811082495 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian*  
0445 GMT 28 Nov 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] The leaders of the 10 militant Palestinian groups have issued a joint statement, ex-

pressing their opposition to the elections for 'Arafat's self-rule government in Gaza and Jericho and saying they will boycott them. The elections, which will be held next month, are part of the agreements reached between the PLO and the Zionist regime.

According to the Taba pact, decisions adopted by the parliament formed after the elections will be examined by a joint committee comprising members of the Zionist regime and the Palestinian self-rule government. These decisions can be implemented only if approved by this committee. People say the regulations on the elections in the self-rule areas put the minimum voter age at 30. This unprecedented condition has deprived young Palestinians of the chance to participate in the elections. This shows that the Zionist regime and its partner—'Arafat's self-rule government—are overtly worried about the Palestinian youths' support for Islamic struggles and their opposition to the compromise.

The statement issued by the 10 militant Palestinian groups was published in Damascus. It says that in addition to legitimizing the continuing occupation of Palestinian territories and Jewish settlements, the elections in the self-rule areas ignore the fate of Jerusalem and give the Zionist regime a free hand to move the Jews to Jerusalem and alter the city's demographics.

The elections are taking place with the shadow of the occupying Zionist military presence hanging over the few areas, the administration of which has been handed over to 'Arafat's self-rule. Very few people believe the Zionists will let the outcome of the elections be anything but in line with their expansionist intentions.

Extensive opposition by Palestinian popular groups and organizations and the self-rule government's compiling of regulations facilitating the victory of the supporters of compromise with Israel cast serious doubts over the legitimacy of the elections in the self-rule areas.

**Afghanistan's Taleban Seeking Aid To End Dispute**  
LD2511121295 *Tehran IRNA in English*  
1155 GMT 25 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Nov 25, IRNA — The Taleban, a militant Afghan group, has sought Iran's full support in putting an end to the Afghan dispute in its true perspective.

A Taleban spokesman said the Taleban strongly appreciates the Islamic Republic Of Iran and has a full respect for it.

Maulavi Gul Hashim, talking to IRNA Saturday [25 November] said that Iran should be optimistic about Taleban's movement which was, as he claimed, to bring the Islamic revolution in Afghanistan. He hoped that

Iran being an important state of the region will monitor and study the Taleban's movement and support it.

He made this statement in response to Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi's announcement that Iran had turned down request from the Taleban for dialogue with Iranian authorities. He claimed that their movement was totally an indigenous one and did not enjoy support from any foreign country. He once again rejected the allegation that Pakistan was supporting their movement.

He stressed, "We assure Iranian brothers that we are not being backed by any power."

Maulavi Gul Hashim responding to a question about U.S. officials' meeting with Taleban leaders, claimed the U.S. had, in fact, contacted them to seek their cooperation in bringing an end to the cultivation of poppy and opium in the war-torn country of Afghanistan.

"But this was the U.S. pretext to infiltrate different cities of Afghanistan," he said. He added we will not allow America or any other country to play a role in forming a government in Afghanistan.

The Taleban spokesman said Iran is the only country in the world where the Islamic revolution has taken place". "We term the ties with Iran very significant," he added.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Borujerdi on Thursday announced that Taleban had made contact with Iranian offices in Herat as well as in Pakistan and called for sending a Taleban delegation to Iran for a dialogue with authorities there.

Iran had turned down the request.

Borujerdi, in a statement, Thursday clearly said that Taleban was a new phenomenon and they needed to study it more carefully before taking any decision regarding the proposed visit to Tehran by the youngsters.

**Ambassador to Pakistan Comments on Ties**  
NC2411103195 *Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English*  
20 Nov 95 pp 1, 14

[TEHRAN TIMES Service Report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TEHRAN—Iran's Ambassador to Islamabad, Mohammad Mehdi Akhundzadeh, underscored the importance of a visit made recently by Pakistani Premier Benazir Bhutto, saying officials of the two countries are committed to maintaining deep Tehran-Islamabad brotherly ties notwithstanding varying stances in regional issues such as the crisis in Afghanistan.

Akhundzadeh further told the TEHRAN TIMES that relations between the two countries were of such



importance as to be unaffected even by development outside the region, with obvious reference to the current UN mediation plan for troubled Afghanistan.

He said the relations between the two countries are of crucial importance to stability in the region, stressing both countries' common cultural, historical and religious backgrounds.

Elaborating on the Afghan crisis, Akhundzadeh expressed confidence that the various rival factions in Afghanistan would, sooner or later, come to a realization that the Afghan people want peace and stability, along with the development and reconstruction of their country.

The Iranian diplomat further stressed the importance of regular exchange of visits to achieve better understanding between the two countries' officials, and to demonstrate unwavering Iran-Pakistan relations.

He referred to the upcoming visits of the Pakistani Parliament speaker and the Pakistani judiciary's chief justice to Tehran, saying the visits are intended to exchange views on the legislative and judiciary systems of both countries.

Touching on the mutual defense cooperation, he said the second Iran-Pakistan joint military maneuvers will take place in Iranian coastal waters this year. The first, since the victory of the Islamic Revolution, was performed in Pakistan's coastal waters last year.

Akhundzadeh predicted the Tehran-Islamabad healthy cooperation in defense to be a factor that will ensure peace and stability in the Persian Gulf region, and even in the whole of Asia, citing the two countries as enviable requisites for stability in the region.

He further touched on the ample grounds for further cooperation between Iran and Pakistan and said that the holding of joint activities of international significance, such as the Muslim Women's Olympic Games, the anti-narcotic drugs campaign, radio, television, commercial, industrial and economic cooperation within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), including the ECO airline and shipping line, are impetus for the enhancement of bilateral ties between the two neighboring countries.

Iran and Pakistan share views on major international issues including Bosnia-Herzegovina and revising the structure of the United Nations and the Security Council, Akhundzadeh added.

He further said that during the recent interparliamentary union (IPU) in Bucharest both the Iranian and Pakistani delegates called for establishment of an interparliamentary union of the Islamic countries.

Referring to Benazir Bhutto's visit to Mashhad, Iran's northeastern province of Khorasan, he said during the visit she called on Iran to set out certain facilities for Pakistani pilgrims who want to pay tribute to Imam Reza (AS) [peace be upon him] the eighth Imam of the Infallible Household of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) [peace be upon him and his scion]. The Iranian official agreed to create the facilities for Pakistani pilgrims, the Iranian diplomat said.

#### **Commentary on Need for Better Ties With Pakistan**

NC2411130795 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English  
18 Nov 95 p 12

[Commentary by the TEHRAN TIMES Political Desk:  
"Iran, Pakistan, Need Better Ties"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TEHRAN—Negotiation is considered one of the best mechanisms for creation of mutual understanding. It can play an effective role not only between the belligerent parties but also between friends who share borders, cultural and historical commonalities.

As a matter of fact, the role of negotiation in the enhancement of bilateral ties has been played up due to the characteristics of the contemporary international system which rests upon propaganda on the part of dominant powers who seek maintenance and expansion of their hegemony over the international arena.

Thus the recent visit of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to Iran, the second since December 1993, and her negotiations with Iranian officials fall within four important axes.

1. Common national goals: The two neighboring countries of Iran and Pakistan, sharing a common border with Afghanistan have common national interests in settling the prevailing crisis in Afghanistan.

Accusing Iran and Pakistan of competing and meddling with Afghanistan's internal affairs is nothing but a bid to undermine Tehran-Islamabad ties.

Afghanistan's need for help was the main motive behind the recent negotiations held between Bhutto and Iranian officials.

During her visit to Tehran, Bhutto stressed that Islamabad counts Iran as a friend and brother neighbor.

Furthermore, corroborating the remarks made by president Rafsanjani, who told Pakistan's National Assembly that it is an unjust claim to say that the two countries are rivals, Bhutto said there is no rivalry between Iran and Pakistan.

The common national goals have prayed up the need for Tehran and Islamabad to undertake a more effective role in settling the Afghan plight. Thus, one can evaluate the two countries' common goals in line with their macro policies for helping settlement of regional problems.

2. An attempt to obliterate the existing ambiguities between the two countries: Afghan government has accused Pakistan of rendering military and finance assistance to the Taliban group.

Meeting with, Rabin Rafael, the U.S. undersecretary of state, a senior military commander of Afghan Jam'iyat-e Eslami Party [Islamic Society], Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, branded Pakistan as the main factor in the continuation of the Afghan crisis.

He has stressed that through its interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs Islamabad prevents a national understanding from being materialized in Afghanistan.

On the other hand, in a bid to darken Tehran-Islamabad ties and shatter their common will to solve the Afghan crisis, Rabin Rafael in a press conference once again accused Iran of being involved in terrorism.

Negotiation between Iran and Pakistan will help create mutual understanding and thus, abort the propaganda campaign against the two countries. It also will help eliminate ambiguities over the two countries' will for solving the Afghan crisis.

3. Expansion of bilateral relations: The two countries, having active participation in regional and international organizations, are in need of cooperation within the framework of these organizations: The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), the Interparliamentary Union, the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) and the United Nations.

Bhutto's advisor for economic affairs, Shahid Hassan Khan, has said that the two countries can boost their industrial cooperation and export manufactured goods to third parties.

Enhancement of Tehran-Islamabad economic ties will help foster and cement other grounds for cooperation and the settlement of the Afghan crisis in particular.

4. Putting forward common solutions: The two countries share the view that the Afghan issue should be solved through a contribution of all Afghan rival factions without any foreign interference.

They maintain that today Afghanistan needs the collective help of all countries with which it shares geographical and religious commonalities, not the help of only one country.

Thus, the three parties, Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan should bear in mind that cooperation has a key role in regional foreign policies and that materialization of security requires comprehensive efforts for mutual understanding.

#### **Navy Will Study Production of Military Vessels**

*LD2511161095 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 25 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Two domestically built logistical vessels were launched today, said Rear Admiral 'Abbas Mohtaj, acting Navy commander. He added: Iran will also design and carry out studies on the building of military vessels in the near future.

#### **\*Median Price of Food Items Ending 15 Sep**

*96LA0008B Tehran SALAM in Persian 30 Sep 95 p 4*

[FBIS Translated Text] News Service—In the week ending 24 Shahrivar [15 September], the price of butter, apples, pears, peaches, and green beans increased severely and the prices of Kharbuzeh melon, cantaloupes, watermelons, and potatoes decreased significantly.

According to a report by the Economic Statistics Office of the Central Bank, in the week under examination, the price of Iranian cheese decreased somewhat compared to the previous week. Eggs are sold from 3,800-4,800 rials [R] per carton, which marks a price increase.

Based on this report, in that week, the prices of sugar cubes, sugar, and tea were relatively stable, but coupon oil was rarely available in some of the Qods, Sepah, and Town and Country stores.

Below, we examine the changes in prices of some items in each group compared to the previous week.

Comparison Chart of Average Price of Certain Food Items in Week Ending 24/06/1374 [15 September 1995] (Price in Riials)

| Name and Specification of Groups          | Unit               | Government Price           | Average Price in Week: |          |                    | Percentage of Change in Price of Current Week Compared to Week: |                    |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|----------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
|                                           |                    |                            | Current                | Previous | Similar Last Month | Previous                                                        | Similar Last Month |
| 1. Dairy products                         |                    |                            |                        |          |                    | 3.4                                                             | 8.9                |
| Non-pasteurized yogurt                    | kg                 |                            | 907                    | 880      | 892                | 2.1                                                             | 1.7                |
| Premium Iranian cheese                    | kg                 |                            | 6,969                  | 7,000    | 7,298              | -0.4                                                            | -5.8               |
| Domestic and imported pasteurized butter  | kg                 | 6,400                      | 17,862                 | 16,743   | 16,086             | 6.7                                                             | 11                 |
| Powdered milk (Nili, Faska, and Murinaka) | can                | 270                        | 8,627                  | 8,283    | 6,704              | 4.2                                                             | 28.7               |
| 2. Eggs                                   |                    |                            |                        |          |                    | 4.4                                                             | 8.4                |
| Eggs (per carton)                         | Approximately 2 kg |                            | 4,159                  | 3,983    | 3,837              | 4.4                                                             | 8.4                |
| 3. Rice                                   |                    |                            |                        |          |                    | -2.5                                                            | -3.5               |
| Imported (Thailand) rice                  | kg                 | 1,300                      | 2,700                  | 2,731    | 2,642              | -1.1                                                            | 2.2                |
| Imported (non-Thailand) rice              | kg                 | 1,300                      | 2,586                  | 2,656    | 2,765              | -1.9                                                            | -4.8               |
| Premium domestic Sadri rice               | kg                 |                            | 5,308                  | 5,562    | 5,589              | -4.6                                                            | -5                 |
| 4. Legumes                                |                    | Price at City Hall markets |                        |          |                    | 1.2                                                             | 1.8                |
| Chick peas                                | kg                 | 3,100                      | 3,628                  | 3,600    | 3,623              | 0.8                                                             | -0.1               |
| Split peas                                | kg                 | 3,700                      | 4,211                  | 4,076    | 4,083              | 3.2                                                             | 3.1                |
| Lentils                                   | kg                 | 2,400                      | 2,752                  | 2,777    | 2,830              | -0.9                                                            | -2.8               |
| Kidney beans                              | kg                 | 3,200                      | 4,155                  | 4,140    | 4,150              | 0.4                                                             | 0.1                |
| Black-eye peas                            | kg                 |                            |                        |          |                    |                                                                 |                    |
| White beans                               | kg                 | 2,250                      | 2,881                  | 2,812    | 2,852              | 2.2                                                             | 1                  |
| Red beans                                 | kg                 | 3,500                      | 4,268                  | 4,221    | 3,888              | 1.1                                                             | 9.8                |
| 5. Fresh fruits                           |                    |                            |                        |          |                    | 1.6                                                             | 3.9                |



| Name and Specification of Groups | Unit | Government Price | Average Price in Week: |          |                    | Percentage of Change in Price of Current Week Compared to Week: |                    |
|----------------------------------|------|------------------|------------------------|----------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
|                                  |      |                  | Current                | Previous | Similar Last Month | Previous                                                        | Similar Last Month |
| Lebanon-seed red apples          | kg   | 500              | 1,863                  | -        | -                  | -                                                               | -                  |
| Lebanon-seed yellow apples       | kg   | 500              | 1,777                  | -        | -                  | -                                                               | -                  |
| Golab apples                     | kg   | 900-1,200        | 2,636                  | 2,277    | 2,077              | 15.8                                                            | 26.9               |
| Sweet lemons                     | kg   |                  | 1,843                  | 1,478    | -                  | 22.7                                                            | -                  |
| Figs                             | kg   | 850              | 1,711                  | 1,662    | 1,921              | 2.9                                                             | 11.4               |
| Pomegranates                     | kg   | 500              | 1,117                  | 1,273    | -                  | -2.2                                                            | -                  |
| Pears                            | kg   | 900              | 1,791                  | 1,703    | 1,667              | 5.2                                                             | 7.2                |
| Nectarines                       | kg   | 1,100            | 2,626                  | 2,371    | 2,090              | 10.8                                                            | 25.6               |
| Peaches                          | kg   | 1,000-1,200      | 2,048                  | 1,892    | 1,693              | 8.2                                                             | 21                 |
| Grapes                           | kg   | 750-900          | 1,490                  | 1,527    | 1,397              | - 2.4                                                           | 6.7                |
| Kharbuzeh melon                  | kg   | 450              | 650                    | 710      | 772                | -8.5                                                            | -15.8              |
| Cantaloupes                      | kg   | 450              | 581                    | 612      | 623                | -5.1                                                            | -6.7               |
| Watermelon                       | kg   | 250              | 345                    | 442      | 422                | -21.9                                                           | -18.2              |
| 6. Fresh vegetables              |      |                  |                        |          |                    | -1.8                                                            | 2.1                |
| Cucumbers                        | kg   | 550              | 834                    | 845      | 842                | -1.2                                                            | - 1                |
| Tomatoes                         | kg   | 450              | 555                    | 553      | 520                | 0.4                                                             | 6.7                |
| Eggplants                        | kg   | 400              | 590                    | 612      | 653                | -3.6                                                            | - 9.6              |
| Zucchini                         | kg   | 350              | 516                    | 548      | 527                | -5.8                                                            | - 2.1              |
| Potatoes                         | kg   | 450              | 686                    | 758      | 732                | -9.5                                                            | - 6.4              |
| Onions                           | kg   | 300              | 443                    | 462      | 391                | -4.1                                                            | 12.3               |
| Green beans                      | kg   | 650              | 952                    | 885      | 848                | 7.6                                                             | 12.3               |
| Green leaf vegetables            | kg   | 350              | 562                    | 553      | 545                | 2                                                               | 2.5                |
| 7. Red meat                      |      |                  |                        |          |                    | 1.8                                                             | 5.2                |
| Mutton and goat with bones       | kg   | 7,300            | 10,281                 | 10,012   | 10,067             | 2.7                                                             | 2.1                |
| Beef and veal, boneless          | kg   |                  | 12,135                 | 12,019   | 11,196             | 1                                                               | 8.4                |
| 8. Chicken                       |      |                  |                        |          |                    | 2.7                                                             | 0                  |
| Chicken                          | kg   |                  | 4,919                  | 4,789    | 4,919              | 2.7                                                             | 0                  |
| 9. Sugar cubes and sugar         |      | government price |                        |          |                    | 0.2                                                             | 0.1                |
| Sugar cubes                      | kg   | 27.5-1,260       | 1,267                  | 1,263    | 1,265              | 0.3                                                             | 0.2                |

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| Name and Specification of Groups | Unit | Government Price | Average Price in Week: |          |                    | Percentage of Change in Price of Current Week Compared to Week: |                    |
|----------------------------------|------|------------------|------------------------|----------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
|                                  |      |                  | Current                | Previous | Similar Last Month | Previous                                                        | Similar Last Month |
| Sugar                            | kg   | 27.5-1,100       | 1,100                  | 1,100    | 1,100              | 0                                                               | 0                  |
| 10. Tea                          |      |                  |                        |          |                    | 0                                                               | 0                  |
| Baharch mixed tea (500 grams)    | pkg  | 2,100            | 2,100                  | 2,100    | 2,100              | 0                                                               | 0                  |
| 11. Shortening                   |      |                  |                        |          |                    |                                                                 |                    |
| Shortening (4.5 kg can)          | can  | 294-11,600       |                        |          |                    |                                                                 |                    |

### Pakistan

#### Minister Discloses Talks With Russia on Copters

BK2311132495 Islamabad THE NEWS in English  
23 Nov 95 p 4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — The Defence Minister, Aftab Shahban Mirani, said that Pakistan was negotiating purchase of Russian MI-17 helicopters for Pakistan Army.

Replying a question by Ilyas Ahmed Bilour, in the Senate Wednesday [22 November], he said that the purchase of helicopters were strictly in accordance with the relevant rules and regulations.

Responding to another question, he dispelled a report that the number of helicopters was 49, adding the helicopters are less than the reported number.

To another question, asked by Prof. Khushid Ahmed, the defence minister said PIA [Pakistan International Airlines] is not exercising discriminatory policy in respect of the transfer of dead bodies of Pakistani nationals. The dead body of any Pakistani national is being transported free from while of UAE and not from Dubai only, he added.

#### Officials To Work Out French Mirage Sale Details

BK2511122395 Islamabad THE NEWS in English  
25 Nov 95 p 10

[Report by Shakil Shaikh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD: Following approval by the French President of the proposed light-weight Mirage 2000-5 aircraft deal, Pakistan and France have embarked upon tiresome discussions on the technicalities of the costly \$2.8 billion sale/purchase matter.

Informed official sources told the THE NEWS on Thursday [23 November] that two teams each from

the Air Headquarters and the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex (PAC) Kamra will proceed to Paris shortly for holding talks with Dassault, manufacturer of Mirage aircraft, and representatives of the vendor industries. "Both the teams will jointly hold talks in France on each and every matter linked with the equipment, spare parts and ground support equipment."

According to these sources, the Air Headquarters team will also hold separate discussions on weapons, radar, avionics and equipment package. On the other hand, the PAC team will look into matters relating to spares and equipments, which could be manufactured at the PAC, and those which would be bought from vendor industry of the Mirage aircraft.

Both the teams will be headed by respective Air Commodores and will spend several days in France to have item-wise talks on each and every thing.

The visit of Pakistan Air Force technical and engineering teams will take place in the wake of the visit of two teams from France to Pakistan within the span of last 45 days. One team of Dassault comprised 20 people, while the other, which visited PAC Kamra and held negotiations with senior Air Force officials, consisted of four members.

The Pakistan teams will hold a threadbare discussion with the manufacture and representatives of the vendor industry on the prospects of smooth supply of spares and equipment which Pakistan could require after acquiring 30 lightweight Mirage 2000-5. "We have had problem with some western nations in spares supply and repair of equipment after the deal, coupled with one-sided exorbitant increase in the prices of different items" said official sources. They should time all technical aspects will be taken into consideration before formal negotiations on the financial package of the hefty deal start between the two governments.

While France has not been able to find many buyers of its Mirage 2000-5 because of the price tag, Pakistan has narrowed down options to acquire modern aircraft for its Air Force. "Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's visit to France resulted in grant of political approval to the proposed deal with Pakistan still exploring ways to secure credit line it formally signs the Mirage contract," said official sources.

The sources said the talks on financial matters and per copy price of Mirage aircraft may take several months, as Pakistan is hit by financial constraints and non-availability of funds.

The concerned quarters have also not ruled out the possibility of asking the French Government for giving incentive to Pakistan by reducing the fly-away-price of the French fighterbomber. Presently, the fly-away-price of Mirage 2000-5 around \$35 million and when equipped with required weapons, radar and other systems the per copy price would shoot up. However, it is not essential for the Air Force to have same systems for all the 30 to 32 aircraft for a variety of strategic reasons.

The progress so far made on the Mirage 2000-5 proposition is also expected to come up in the meeting of the Defence Committee of the Cabinet next month.

Informed circles say that there is no doubt that Pakistan is interested in striding the Mirage deal as early as possible, but the national security interests coupled with financial constraints would be kept in mind during the talks with French authorities.

#### **Minister Refutes Mirage 'Kickback' Allegations**

*BK2511120495 Islamabad THE NATION in English 25 Nov 95 p 12*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD (AFP) - Federal Minister for Defence, Aftab Shaaban Mirani, has strongly refuted the allegations levelled by Senator Tariq Chaudhry against Asif Ali Zardari, MNA (Member of National Assembly), regarding receiving any kickback in the deal of Mirage-2000 jet fighters.

In a statement, the Defence Minister as challenged the Senator to prove his allegation at any forum or otherwise suggest alternatives to the Mirage 2000 deal.

Mirani said as a matter of fact the Chairman, Joint Chief of Staff Committee, few months back, has made a request in this regard as the deal of F-16s has been put off in cold storage since long, the reasons known to every Pakistani.

He said the Brown Amendment provided opportunity to get the money back which Pakistan had point for the F-16s, he said after this it was decided to explore

other options as Pakistan Air Force desperately needed the latest jet fighters to counter the threat posed by the neighbouring country.

The Minister said, prior to PM's recent visit to France it was requested by the concerned quarter that the matter regarding purchase of Mirage-2000 should be taken up during her meeting with the French President, he added.

The Minister accused Tariq Chaudhry as, he thought, Tariq Chaudhry was playing in the hands of the enemy and "it is always India which tried to deprive Pakistan from getting the F-16 and Mirage-2000 conspiring time and again," he claimed.

Mirani said Senator Tariq Chaudhry was at the end of his tenure of the member of Upper House, all his efforts and allegations were to ally himself with Nawaz Sharif just to seek PML (Pakistan Muslim League) (N) ticket and support in the coming elections to the Senate.

The Minister asking Tariq Chaudhry to prove his allegations of kickbacks against Asif Ali Zardari. He said Asif Ali Zardari had already faced courageously, such baseless, rubbish and nonsense charges in the past and remained behind the bars for more than two years. Ultimately, nothing was proved against him and it was Senators ideal, the then President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, administered oath to Asif to Asif Ali Zardari as his Minister, Mirani said.

#### **Leghari: Indian Missile Plan Increases Tension**

*BK2811011295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 27 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said the Indian missiles program is a great multiplier of tension, which has started a new missile in the whole region. He was talking to Sri Lankan minister for justice, constitutional affairs, Professor G.L. Peiris, who called on him in Islamabad today. The president said Pakistan wants a peaceful solution of the Kashmir problem in accordance with the UN resolutions. He hoped Sri Lanka would use its influence on India for an early settlement of the Kashmir problem.

Referring to Afghanistan, the president said Pakistan also wants a just settlement there in which genuine interests of all the groups are taken into account.

#### **Report Previews Upcoming Trial of 'Coup Plotters'**

*BK2611105795 Islamabad THE NATION in English 26 Nov 95 pp 1, 11*

[Report by Ahmed Rashid]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD — Eleven Pakistani Army officers involved in an attempted Islamic



coups in September will face a court martial in the first week of December. The court martial will be a major test for the Pakistan Army in the present highly polarised environment with Islamic parties threatening to launch a mass movement to topple the government. Meanwhile, there is considerable consternation about the prolonged delay in appointing a new Army Chief of the Staff.

Senior officials said that the summary of evidence against the accused coup plotters has been completed. The summary of evidence is a crucial pre-court martial procedure that is demanded by military law. The accused have completed giving their statements and a Major General is expected to be appointed soon to head the court martial trial, that could be held in camera, although this would only be decided once the presiding judges are appointed. The 11 officers, who were arrested after September 26, had planned to kill the Army high command top politicians, seize power and enforce Islamic system in the country. Four Army officers, including Major General Zaheerul Islam Abbasi, the coup leader will stand accused of sedition along with Mufti Sayeed, a civilian Islamic preacher. One senior officer has turned approver while 6 other officers will be witnesses. Five civilians will also face trial. It was not immediately clear as to why the other 6 officers will not also stand trial, but it is believed to be divided into two groups, those who thought the entire conspiracy was restricted to help smuggle arms to the Kashmir Mujahideen and those involved and in the knowledge of the actual coup attempt.

Reliable sources say that the total number of officers and civilians accused is 16 and not 40 as reported in the Press. It is now widely believed that the figure of 40 includes some 30 members of the Harkat-ul-Ansar, which the conspirators have named as those Harkat members, who were prepared to come and help them in carrying out their bloody coup attempt. These 30 men remain absconding.

The court martial will begin at a time when the Jama'at-i-Islami is spearheading a major campaign to unite all the Islamic parties into a mass movement to topple the government. Under the umbrella of the MYC [Milli Yekjehti Council] which is fast being turned into a major new opposition group the Islamic parties are unifying on a common agenda — ending sectarianism within their ranks mobilising the silent majority in mosques and madrassas [religious schools] on economic issues and inflation and forming a common Islamic front which secular opposition parties like the Muslim League will have little choice but to join. Significantly the meeting between Qazil Hussain Ahmad and General Waheed seems to have made little impression on the

Jama'at Amir, who has not toned down his rhetoric. It is in this atmosphere that the Army will have to rigorously pursue the court martial despite the fact that figures like Major-General Zaheer are considered Islamic Mujahideen and heroes rather than traitors by the Islamists.

What should be of equal concern to the government and the military is that the Islamist movement is expected to kick off in Punjab. Moreover, every attempt is being made to split the JUI [Jamiat-i-Ulema] from the ruling alliance if that happens in the next few months the JUI will be able to muster rural Pakistanis in the Frontier and Balochistan. Pakistan's own Taleban and other madrasa groups thus bringing a rural dimension to the movement. Most of the MYC component parties are largely urban-based and the JUI is the only party with a strong, heavily armed and well-financed rural contingent. Any involvement of JUI militants will also create unprecedented hostility between the Pakhtuns and Baloch in Balochistan where tensions between the two ethnic groups are already high because of the Taleban phenomenon in Afghanistan.

The court martial will also be taking place at a time when either the extension for General Waheed or his replacement will be coming through. There is considerable concern within all elements of the ruling elite about the inordinate delay on the decision of a new Chief. Both the President and of the Prime Minister have twice offered General Waheed an extension, but, according to sources, he has so far not replied to the offer nor have the country's leaders asked him to make up his mind even though the Defence Ministry admits that takes at least two months for a handover to take place. With General Waheed due to retire on January 11 and country and the Army waiting with held breath on the decision the delay remains unexplainable.

The onslaught by Senator Lang Chaudhry, a member of the ruling alliance about the extension was hardly an aberration. It is well known that the Senator has some of the best connections in the military as compared to other politicians.

His views are seen as widely representative of the general mood in the military and the civilian establishment. The Senator's views revolve around the fact that although the Army's combat readiness cannot be doubted it is at a crucial ideological, structural and the theoretical crossroads, especially after the coup and faced with the new post-Cold War era with heightened tensions on all of Pakistan's borders. The Army high command needs to consolidate a new ideological direction not only for itself but the country as whole. With the loss of public confidence in civilian institutions such as the police,

the judiciary and the bureaucracy, many considered the Army as the sole institution that is not divided by ideological cleavages and which would maintain national integrity. However, public confidence has been shaken to the core after the attempted coup. If the Army is not united, then how can the country remain united is a common refrain from both the public and politicians.

The Army has to either weed out anti-democratic dissidents within its own ranks or face greater internal problems in the future, which would be detrimental to a country already plunged into growing political anarchy and an unprecedented spate of violence and assassinations. The new Army leadership will have to raise morale not only in the 24,000 strong officer corps but also in a now skeptical public. The army also has to re-establish itself as a moral trail blazer for the civilian establishment that is fast losing its credibility. Some see extensions, as only duplicating the civilian establishment, which would affect the military all down the line. If General Waheed accepts an extension, he is likely to ask four Lt. Generals, also scheduled for retirement in the next four months, to stay on and that would affect promotions and morale lower down the line.

General Waheed has scrupulously maintained and strengthened the democratic dispensation during his tenure. A lesser man or one less guided by principles, could have easily seized the opportunity during the political crisis in the summer of 1993 and taken over power. The fact that General Waheed oversaw the holding of fresh elections and the most peaceful transition of power in the country's history, is firmly etched in Pakistan's historical and political record and more importantly in peoples minds.

If the politicians have failed to deliver since then, that is hardly the fault of the General. If the General bows out now he will have set an auspicious precedent for both the Army and the country. If he decides to stay on, then he must be prepared to end his long silence and ensure that the country and the Army is given the necessary confidences about the future of Pakistan's national integrity, when the minds of the public are beset with images of gloom and doom.

#### **Bhutto: Students Involved in 'Terrorist' Acts**

*BK2711132495 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 27 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has said the religious institutions and madarasa [religious schools] are playing significant roles in the promotion of religious education and Islamic values and she has full regard and respect for

ulema [religious scholars] and religious institutions. She made these remarks while talking to an ulema delegation led by khatib [religious leader] of Badshahi Masjid [Mosque], Maulana Syed Abdul Kadir Azad, in Lahore today. She said, however, in certain educational institutions established in the name of Islam and for imparting din [religious education], students have been trained to use weapons. These students, she said, were found involved in the terrorist activities. The prime minister said the government cannot allow terrorism and goondaism [hooliganism] in the name of Islam. The prime minister called upon the ulema to review the situation thoroughly and extend their support to the government for the solution of problem. The prime minister said that Pakistan is an Islamic country where we have to promote and adopt the Islamic values, and there is no question to adopt other un-Islamic values. It was the main reason, she maintained, that during Cairo Conference [on population] and the International Conference on Women in Beijing, she presented the Islamic point of view on important issues. The prime minister said there is a need for the maintenance of constant contact between the government and ulema to avoid any misunderstanding. She said there should be a body of ulema which can give advice and provide assistance to the government on any important matter.

Speaking on the occasion, the leader of the delegation, Syed Abdul Kadir Azad, paid rich tributes to the shaheed [martyr] Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto on his valuable services for Islamic and Islamic values.

#### **'Religious Militants' Sentenced to Death for Murder**

*BK2711131395 Hong Kong AFP in English 1131 GMT 27 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KARACHI, Nov 27 (AFP) — A Pakistani court handed down the death penalty Monday [27 November] to nine Moslem religious militants in a mass murder case amid a government crackdown against sectarianism following the bombing of the Egyptian embassy in Islamabad.

Six of those convicted are in detention while three are at large. All belong to Sipah Sahaba Pakistan (SSP), a radical group from the Sunnite Moslem majority.

The nine were convicted by the Special Court for Suppression of Terrorist Activities on the charge of killing 27 people in three attacks with automatic weapons in Karachi early this year, court officials said.

Judge Rafiq Ahmad Awan sentenced three other SSP members, who are in custody, to life imprisonment.

Twenty were gunned down in two Shiite mosques on February 25 and another seven were killed in an attack on a house on March 4.

The six detained SSP members were brought to the court under tight security to hear the verdict, after which police intensified security at Shiite worship places. Officials said they feared reprisals from the group.

The law gives the convicts the right to appeal against their sentences but it was not immediately clear what they planned to do.

Karachi, Pakistan's largest city and commercial hub, has been rocked by violence which has killed more 1,650 in Karachi this year. Among this widespread violence were sectarian attacks early this year involving militant Sunni and Shiite groups.

The death sentences came just over a week after a massive blast devastated the Egyptian embassy in Islamabad. Hundreds of religious militants have since been detained in a crackdown ordered by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

The authorities have sealed the offices of some groups, including SSP.

A local SSP leader, who did not want to be identified, accused the government of launching a campaign against religious groups at the behest of the United States.

SSP, known for its strong views against religious beliefs of Shiite Moslems, has its headquarters at Jhang, a dusty town in the heart of Punjab, Pakistan's most populous province.

The group's chief, Ziaur Rehman Farooqi, and another SSP leader Azam Tariq, a vocal MP, were arrested by police in Punjab on November 21 on the charge of involvement in the murder of father of a ruling party deputy.

The SSP and its Shiite counterpart, Sipah-e-Muhammad Pakistan (SMP), have been accused of attacks against each other, but their rivalry was somewhat defused after both joined a multiparty religious front.

Almost all important religious groups are represented on the front, called Milli Yakehti Council [National Solidarity Council], which was launched early this year with the aim of checking sectarianism.

Angered by the detention of religious activists, the front has threatened to wage a mass mobilisation campaign against the government next month with public meetings culminating into a call for general strike on December 30.

The government told the Senate in Islamabad Sunday that religious scholars of different leanings had been taken into custody as a precautionary measure against an outbreak of sectarian incidents.

#### Further on Death Sentences

BK2711141295 Islamabad PTV Television Network  
in English 1300 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Karachi, 14 people today were awarded death sentence and a fine of 300,000 rupees [Rs.] each in three different cases of mass murder in PECHS and PIB Colony areas [residential areas]. The accused will have to face three years' rigorous imprisonment in case of default of payment of fine. Two of the convicts have been declared absconders. They are Fahimul Haq and Asif. Other accused, Ishfaq Ali, was acquitted as the charges against him were not proved. The learned judge in separate judgments in open court today held accused Mansoor Ali Babar, Omar Hayat, Karimullah Sharif, Saghar Ahmad Sheikh, Hafiz Ahmad Bux, Khwaja Kalimuddin, Ahmad Zahoor, and absconding Fahimul Haq guilty of murder, attempt on life, and dacoity [robbery] in the PECHS area.

The accused were involved in the Mehfil-i-Murtaza Imambargah [Shiite Muslim place of worship], PIB Colony, and Imambargah Fazal Abbas and PECHS mass murder case.

In the PECHS murder case, seven persons belonging to two families were massacred in cold blood in two flats near PECHS graveyard. Case numbers 122 and 95 were registered in the Ferozabad police station on 1 February 1995 and accused were accordingly convicted under Section 302 and 304. They were Hafiz Ahmad Bux, Fahimul Haq, Mansoor Ali Babar, Omar Hayat, Mohammad Fazil, Karimullah Sharif, Saghar Ahmad Sheikh, Khwaja Salimuddin, Ahmad Zahoor, and Ishfaq Ali. Fahimul Haq was declared absconder while the rest were arrested and tried under Section 302 and 304. All the accused were tried and sentenced to death and fined Rs. 100,000 each. In case of default of payment of fine, each will serve one year's rigorous imprisonment.

In the other mass murder case of Imambargah Abu Fazal Abbas of PIB Colony which took place on 25 February this year, 14 person were gunned down in the imambargah. Nine persons were named in the case registered in the New Town police station. Out of them, two — Fahimul Haq and Asif — were declared absconders. The rest of the accused — namely Mansoor Ali Babar, Omar Hayat, Mohammad Fazil, Khwaja Salahuddin, Syed Asif Ali, Mohammad Gulzar, and Mohammad Ahmad — were challenged and tried and sentenced to



death and fine of Rs. 100,000 each. In default, they will serve three years' rigorous imprisonment.

In the third case of massacre in the Mehfil-i-Murtaza, PECHS, which took place just an hour after the Imambargah Fazal Abbas carnage, 15 people, including the imam [prayer leader], were butchered mercilessly in the gruesome act of terrorism. Cases were registered in Firozabad police station against nine persons. All the cases of Imambargah Fazal Abbas massacre case were involved in this case too and were given death sentence and fine of Rs. 100,000 each. In default of payment of the fine, they will have to serve three years' rigorous imprisonment. The accused can file an appeal against the judgment before the Sindh High Court within seven days.

#### **Five MQM Members Killed in Clashes With Police**

*BK2811010795 Hong Kong AFP in English  
1732 GMT 27 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KARACHI, Nov 27 (AFP) — At least eight people including five activists of Karachi's main opposition group, Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), were killed in incidents of violence here Monday [27 November], police said.

Three MQM members died in a gunbattle with police who were trying to arrest them in the industrial area of Korangi, a police official said.

The official said the three were wanted in several cases of murder and arson.

MQM denied the police claim and said its activists were shot dead in cold blood.

Later in the day, two more MQM members were shot dead in a central part of the city in a clash with police, officials said. No comment was immediately available from MQM on this incident.

Elsewhere in the port city, two unidentified civilians were killed by snipers, police said.

The MQM, which represents Muhajir community made up of immigrants from India who arrived after the 1947 partition of the sub-continent, has been at loggerheads with the government over political and other grievances.

The government holds the MQM responsible for much of the violence that has claimed more than 1,650 lives in Karachi this year. But the group says the violence stems from the government's anti-Muhajir policy.

#### **Indian Firing in Kashmir Expected To Continue**

*BK2811011395 Islamabad THE NATION in English  
27 Nov 95 pp 1, 4*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] JABBI (Nowshera)-Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Abdul Waheed has said: "Inflation and rupee devaluation have eroded all that had been provided to us. The rupee devaluation has affected all and we like the whole nation, we are also giving sacrifices. We realise the problem of the nation."

He said that Indian firing continues on Line of Control and it has made Neelum area its target. "If Pakistan continues moral and diplomatic support to freedom fighters; India will react like this," he said.

He was talking to newsmen before the start of Fireball 95' [as published] exercises near Nowshera about the repercussions of increasing difference of conventional weapons between India and Pakistan. He said: "Despite this, we are in a position to face India. India is continuously investing in making military machinery while inflation eroded all that was given to us," he said.

He said that he has worked with two governments and both the governments helped us whenever we presented any problem. "I am confident that the moment army needs anything the government will come forward and meet its requirement."

When asked about the morale of the army, he said it is very high. Army is doing its job properly". When asked whether attention is being given to the possibility of nuclear arms use in the present war gave, the COAS said "leave it".

About the Indian threat of limited war, he said "leave to it". He said Pakistan needs an "Interim Main Battle Tank." "I want a tank which could last for 20 years. We are, however, trying to manufacture the tank with our own sources. In this connection Al-Khalid tank is being tested," he said. He further said Al-Khalid will be ready by the year 1998. When asked whether Indian firing on LOC will increase tension, he said that Indian will show this reaction if Pakistan continues to back Kashmiris.

The Chief of Army Staff said that it is difficult for him to fire across the LoC because his Muslim brothers and sisters are living there. He said: "We are confident that we will foil enemy's designs".

He said: "We do not want to impose a war on others. It had never been the aim of the Pakistan Army. Our main job is to defend the country's sacred frontiers. He said that it had always been the objective of Pakistan Army to achieve expertise in all types of operations for discharge of its professional obligations in an effective manner.

"We can take them," was a brief but categorical remark of General Abdul Waheed, who was asked that if Pakistan Army could give a befitting reply to the enemy if it indulged in any adventurism against Pakistan.

"We are fully aware of the fact that the nation is paying a tremendous cost to meet the requirements of its Army," he said and pointed out that "we will have to maintain a certain ratio in terms of weaponry and equipment if our adversary keeps on building-up its military might." The Army Chief added that in his opinion, security always, comes first. He avoided to answer all political questions.

**Leghari Wishes Kashmir 'Freedom Fighters' Success**

*BK2211142195 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 22 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In occupied Kashmir, extensive crackdowns were carried out by Indian troops after mojahedin killed at least 17 Indian soldiers in clashes. Mojahedin during their retaliatory attacks inflicted heavy casualties on occupation troops in Kupwara, Kamarwari, [and] Islamabad areas. Indian troops reacted by extensive crackdowns in localities of Srinagar, including Hazratbal and Nauhatta. At least 10 people were martyred by Indian troops in Srinagar and Badgam localities. Furious anti-India demonstrations were held by students of Kashmir University and people of nine localities where Indian troops played havoc with the lives and property of innocent people.

Talking to newsmen in Lahore today, President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said the freedom movement by the Kashmiris in the held valley is the result of denial of the right of self-determination by the Indian Government to the Kashmiri people. The president said the movement has been launched by the Kashmiri freedom fighters who are determined to liberate their territory from the Indian occupation and they themselves are fighting the Indian oppression let loose in the valley. He hoped that the struggle of the Kashmiri freedom fighters will ultimately materialize despite indiscriminate brutalities in the valley by the Indian forces.

**Bhutto Visits Troops During 'Fireball' Exercises**

*BK2711135095 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 27 Nov 95 pp 1,9*

[Report by Rahimullah Yusufzai]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jabbi (Nowshera) — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said on Sunday [26 November] that the nation is ready to make sacrifices to meet the needs of the defense forces.

Talking to reporters at Jabbi along the right bank of the Indus River after witnessing the Peshawar Corps' Fireball 1995 exercises, she said defense allocations could be increased keeping in view the requirements of the armed forces.

"We have always taken care of our armed forces. We would do so in future as well because we want to keep them fighting fit," Ms Bhutto replied to a question whether her government would replenish the defense budget eroded by the recent inflation. "I think we believe in quality rather than quantity. Our emphasis is on motivation," she replied when asked how the country planned to tackle India with more resources and defense manpower.

Ms Bhutto said Pakistan cannot lower its guards as long as the dispute of Kashmir is not resolved. However, she said, she does not expect a conflict with India even though the Line of Control in Kashmir remains tense off and on.

The prime minister said India has failed to control the uprising in occupied Kashmir despite the passage of five years. She reminded that the trouble in Kashmir began in 1987 when elections were rigged. She said that even now the Indian Government is unable to hold polls in the Valley.

Expressing pride in the professionalism of Pakistan's armed forces, she said she is happy to be invited to military exercises at such a big scale.

She narrated how the troops encountered problems while building the bridge on the Indus river Saturday-Sunday night when an excess of 40,000 cusecs water flowed down along with the normal discharge of 70,000 cusecs. She was happy to note that the soldiers tackled the challenge and accomplished their mission.

The PM also referred to the praise earned by Pakistan's peace-keeping troops under the auspices of the United Nations in different countries and felt it shows their dedication and professionalism. Accompanied by Interior Minister Nasirullah Babar, Defence Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani and Ms Naheed Khan, the prime minister earlier flew in a helicopter to Stand Four near Dher village in Attock district to attend a briefing on Fireball '95 exercises. She was received by Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, Air Marshal Farooq Feroze Khan, Chief of Army Staff, Gen. Abdul Waheed and the top brass of the Pakistan Army.

Lt Gen Mumtaz Gul, corps commander, Peshawar, and Maj Gen Munir briefed her on the Fireball '95 in which 30,000 soldiers, over 3,000 vehicles and eight PAF [Pakistan Air Force] aircraft took part and the Pakistan Army for the first time managed to build a 320 metre

long bridge on Indus at Jabbi to enable its tanks, artillery and troops to cross the mighty river. Manoeuvres by the jet-fighters, tanks and artillery were also on display at Stand Four. Later, the prime minister flew to Jabbi in Nowshera district to be briefed by Maj Gen Khalid Farooq and witness tanks and vehicles crossing the makeshift bridge on the Indus River. She also had a close view of the bridge and congratulated the army engineers on accomplishing their task. She announced a donation of Rs [rupees] 10m for the welfare of Peshawar Corps.

#### **Indus River 'Real Enemy' in 'Fireball' Exercises**

BK2711114995 Islamabad THE NEWS in English  
27 Nov 95 p 5

[Report by Rahimullah Yusufzai]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] JABBI (Nowshera district): The Fireball '95 military exercises neared their end Sunday [26 November] when Blueland troops in their counter-offensive made a major breakthrough by advancing deep into Foxland territory after crossing the mighty Indus river via a makeshift bridge built in only eight hours.

The Blueland penetration into enemy land coincided with the visit of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and the Chief of Army Staff Gen Abdul Waheed to the exercise area in Attock and Nowshera districts. Military delegations from six countries also witnessed the exercises along with a media team brought by the ISPR [Inter Services Public Relations].

Lt Gen. Mumtaz Gul, commander Peshawar Corps, which organized and took part in Fireball '95, informed that the exercises would continue for a few more days and his troops would next break out to Tarbela after building and crossing another bridge on Haro over, clearing Kala Chitta mountains and taking Attock city.

During the course of Fireball '95 the Pakistan Army for the first time crossed the Indus via a bridge built Saturday-Sunday night by its engineers. "Rarely have armies crossed a hurdle as massive as the Indus. Its width at Jabbi is 320 metres, its depth is 980 feet and the water current is seven to eight knots," said Maj Gen Khalid Farooq, who commanded one of the divisions, which took part in the Blueland assault.

Maj Gen Khalid Farooq later said the water discharge rose to more than 100,000 cusecs and the current between eight and nine knots at night when the bridge was under construction. He said artificial anchorage was built on both sides of Indus to account for its 320 metre width as Chinese ribbon bridge equipment and also the one made in the U.S. catered for a river width of not

more than 180 metres. We violated the manufacturers' classifications and improvised to cross the raging waters of the mighty Indus," he remarked. He said he accepted his chief's warning that he would be court martialled if the Jawans drowned in the river during the crossing.

Lt Gen. Mumtaz Gul said he reckoned only Saturday night that the Indus was his real enemy in this exercise. "Until then we didn't really feel there was a war going on. We took up the challenge to cross the Indus as there was no escaping after the river came our way," he remarked. He said troops, tanks, artillery and supplies were transported across the sturdy bridge.

Maj Gen Munir, who commanded the division which stormed Foxland after breaking out from the bridgehead on the Indus, conceded that his troops faced stiff resistance by the enemy forces. Talking to this scribe, he denied that Foxland under a plan gave his men way to enable them to invade Attock and go for the Kala Chitta mountain range. Lt Gen Mumtaz Gul also admitted the unexpectedly stout resistance by Foxland troops had caused delay in execution of their assault plans.

Brig. Naseer, commander of the one division force comprising Foxland army, said his men were dug in well and had given a good account of themselves. However, he declined to pinpoint the shortcomings of Blueland troops when pressed by this reporter. Nevertheless, he agreed with this reporter's observation that a meeting of the media with Foxland commanders should also have been arranged to hear their side of the story.

The Fireball '95, part of the annual winter exercises of the Pakistan Army, began on October 2 but the real combat started on November 10, when the Blueland, representing Pakistan, launched a counter-offensive against Foxland, which is another name given to old adversary India. The terrain chosen for the exercises in Kohat, Peshawar and Rawalpindi divisions resembled Kashmir.

The Peshawar Corps Jawans came from as far as Parachinar, Gall and Kohat to take part in Fireball '95, some of them walking 340 kilometres on foot. Lt Gen Mumtaz Gul said the shoes worn by the 30,000 troops involved in the exercises were torn up due to the rough terrain. More than 3,000 vehicles were pressed into service, 16 aircraft including eight Chinese made F-7P and A-5 and helicopters and C-130s flew about 130 sorties, which is a high figure in any peace time exercise.

In the three-phase counter-offensive, the Blueland first flew their commandoes in helicopters and C-130 behind Foxland lines while in the second phase more paratroopers and forces were ferried across Indus river in motor boats. The third phase comprised the construction of the



bridge and its use by tanks, artillery and thousands of soldiers to cross the river.

Air Vice Marshal Mushtaq A Leghari, who heads the Northern Air Command, told The News that eight jet-fighters made available by the PAF during Fireball 95 had done well during the exercises. He said they were remarkably accurate in their bombing sorties at the range on November 23. The commander of Fireball '95 informed that the exercises were monitored by umpires sent by GHQ and every effort would be made to remove shortcomings identified. "It was my decision to attempt the highly risky crossing of the Indus. I believe we should aim higher and set ambitious targets. Even if we fail we can claim that we did make an attempt," remarked Lt Gen Mumtaz Gu.

### Sri Lanka

#### President Interviewed on Current Situation

BK2711124095 Colombo SUNDAY OBSERVER  
in English 26 Nov 95

[Interview with President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga by Lakshman Gunasekara; place and date not given — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Question: Many people are wondering how it is that an army that was in difficulty for so many years has suddenly been so successful and had transformed the military strategic situation in its favour in so short a time. After all, they are the same troops and the same generals. What do you think brought about the change?

Answer: I think it is clear political direction. One should not blame the army for the difficulties it went through in the past. Our forces had learnt their lessons and they knew what had to be done and what could be done. But they did not have the proper political direction. In the past they were under the direction of a corrupt regime and a discredited regime which had no clear vision of a solution to the ethnic problem. Our Government is implementing a political solution to the problem, not a military solution.

Our peace initiative has given us credibility in the eyes of all communities in the country and in the eyes of the world. With that confidence we have been able to take decisive action to defeat the enemies of peace. Under the leadership of my Deputy Defence Minister, Colonel Anuruddha Ratwatte, our forces are operating with a new determination and discipline. He has played a vital role in ensuring the success of our military effort. Col. Ratwatte allows nothing to stand in his way in his efforts to provide what the security forces need. Given our backing, our soldiers have done wonders. In the

battlefield, our officers have led from the front. The success of the operations is due to the careful planning and tireless work of our military commanders and their staff. The entire world is watching the forward march of our troops.

Q: The security forces operations have weakened the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militarily. Does this mean that the Government will now think purely in terms of pursuing military solution or, is the door open for negotiations under certain conditions?

A: We have made it very clear that we recognise the fact that even if we defeat the LTTE totally, the problem is not over. There has to be a negotiated political solution.

#### Devolution

Q: But, will you have dialogue with the LTTE?

A: I have said earlier that we are ready for a dialogue under certain conditions that we will put forward in good time. We have indicated these conditions previously. We will be open to the LTTE to come forward to discuss with us, but only under very strict, well defined conditions. One condition is the laying down of arms, at least symbolically. A second condition is the beginning of political negotiations within a limited, specified time and, a third condition must be a commitment to the concluding of negotiations also within a specified time, either way.

Q: Moves to resolve the nationalists question in Sri Lanka took a long time coming and, came about largely due to the application of countervailing military force by the Tamil nationalist movement. The country's political institutions, as well as the national political leadership, have shown, in the past, an inability to produce a solution. Moves to devolve power came about only after the pressure of the separatist insurgency. The pressure of the separatist insurgency has now been weakened, but do our political institutions have the capacity and will to continue with the devolution process without that pressure?

A: Yes, our Government does.

Q: But does the Sri Lankan political establishment, as a whole, have the capacity and the will to go ahead with the radical reform that is required and, indeed, that you have put forward in the 'package'?

A: Yes, I think so, I believe so.

#### Confidence

Q: I am talking of the opposition parties as well...

A: Well even, if they don't, I think we are strong enough to carry it through.

**Q:** The devolution proposals are before the country at a time, right now, when the intensified war situation has noticeably changed the public mood. In the South, the success of the security forces offensive has seen a greater focus on military action. What kind of public response do you anticipate with regard to the devolution initiative?

**A:** I think that the people realise that, just as we are able to win the war, in order to successfully resolve the ethnic conflict, we must have a political solution. The majority of our people have clearly indicated that they have understood that success in the war does not mean that we have succeeded in overcoming the overall problem. Success in war means the military defeat of the LTTE. But success in war will not bring permanent peace until there is a political solution to the problems of the Tamil people. There must be a definite political solution if we are to definitely have peace.

**Q:** If the military successes have changed the public mood in the South is there a danger that there will be backsliding on the radical reforms proposed in the devolution package?

**A:** I don't think so. There will be some noise from the chauvinist groups who have suddenly come out of their hiding places, not having lifted a finger to help in this war which they have been promoting all the time. They have sent their sons abroad to study and to live overseas. They have not contributed five cents to the war effort neither in money nor in work. Now they are raising their heads on the backs of the soldiers who have committed themselves so courageously and who have sacrificed their lives, and on our backs as we risk our own lives to solve this problem and bring peace. These chauvinist groups will make some noise. But I don't believe the people will be fooled by them, because the people know who they are.

**Q:** Have any foreign governments made any proposals for third party mediation? What is the Government response to such overtures?

**A:** There have been no specific offers, only general offers to help. At the moment foreign mediation is not on the cards. The international community has immense confidence in the peace initiative of the Government and our ability to carry it through.

**Q:** What is the Government going to do about the large population of people who have been forcibly displaced by the LTTE in the Peninsula?

**A:** We are taking all measures to provide them with food, medicines, shelter and other immediate needs. We are doing this knowing full well that the LTTE is also grabbing some of these supplies as they have

always been doing. When Operation Riveresa [sunshine] was launched we asked people to stay in their homes and assured them that we will look after them. We had made arrangements to look after the population in the re-captured area. But as you know, the LTTE suddenly acted to force the people out of these areas. Many civilians who have made their way south have told us how the LTTE forced the people out of Jaffna. The LTTE is quite ready to manipulate the civilian population. They will sacrifice the civilians in order to maintain their power.

### Pomposity

**Q:** Will you be taking action to bring the displaced people back to Jaffna?

**A:** That is indeed what we are doing. We want the people to come back to the safety and comfort of their homes. We are going to do everything possible to ensure that they can settle into their normal lives in Jaffna and all other areas. I have personally supervised the setting up of the ministerial task force which is now in readiness to quickly restore civil administration and restore public utilities, such as electricity, roads, distribution of supplies and also the reconstruction of buildings and other facilities. We have already set up a new hospital in a newly cleared area outside Palaly which is now serving cleared areas around Jaffna. We will re-start the schools and university.

We are deeply concerned for the displaced population and we will do everything possible to bring them back as fast as possible to their homes. We cannot allow them to be ruthlessly pushed around by the LTTE. The international community has indicated its confidence in our humanitarian measures and has assured the Government of any help that is needed. In fact some prominent American human rights activists I met in New York during my recent visit asked me how we had managed to change things for the better in such a short time. My reply was that we had the political will to do what had to be done.

The LTTE is doing much lobbying internationally, but they have not succeeded in persuading any government to support them. For the first time our embassies abroad are active. We send them daily reports and they issue bulletins providing correct information about the situation here.

**Q:** There has been speculation that with the completion of the current offensive and the taking of Jaffna, the Government will go for snap elections. Do you have any such intention?

A: We have no such intention. The people have given us a mandate to fulfil within our tenure in power. We intend to serve our full term and fulfil that mandate.

Q: Certainly a year of Kumaratunga presidency has been refreshingly different from the pomposity and authoritarianism of past presidencies. But still, some people, at least, will be asking whether it will be the start of a further year of an executive political office which your government had promised to abolish within months. Do you still intend to abolish the executive presidency?

A: We gave a promise to the people and we will fulfil that promise. We mean what we say. We intend to bring constitutional amendments to affect this as early as possible. We have given this assurance repeatedly. These amendments will include both the abolition of the executive presidency as well as the devolution package. As soon as they go through the Parliamentary select committee process, we will present the entire set of amendments. They are under discussion at the moment at the select committee level.

Q: So you will bring amendments at the same time to implement both presidency reform as well as the devolution package?

A: Well, they are both amendments to the Constitution.

Q: You do not envisage an entirely new Constitution as such...

A: No. There will be fairly extensive amendments to the present Constitution.

Q: Will Sri Lanka continue to remain a 'Democratic Socialist Republic', or, will there be a change of nomenclature?

A: That is left for the Select Committee to decide. Those are details as far as we are concerned.

Q: The 1996 Budget was an unexpectedly 'light' budget — that is, it did not place too many new economic burdens on ordinary people, as many had feared because of the military expenditures. Is there a possibility that the burdens, such as price increases, will come gradually in the coming months?

A: Not necessarily. Unless there are unforeseen circumstances. We have formulated a budget emphasising on incentives for economic development — something no government has done in the past in the context of war.

Q: The Budget also saw an apparent clash between the Deputy Finance Minister, Professor Peiris and Treasury Secretary A.S. Jayawardena. Do you think the clash and the subsequent departure of Mr. Jayawardena has raised

any doubts about the consistency of economic policy and the Government's management of the economy?

A: I don't think that you can call it a 'clash'. There was some controversy over a particular issue. It was about the Hilton case. This was blown out of proportion by some sections of the press. There was not even any exchange of words between the two people concerned. As you know, when there is a difference of views, then there has to be some adjustments. So I took action to settle the problem.

#### Media freedom

Q: In this new atmosphere of relative media freedom, both the Government and society as a whole, seem to be finding it difficult to adjust to the rather unbridled behaviour of the media, especially the private sector media. Some sections of the media are making use of their newfound freedom to strongly criticise the government for anything they perceive as an error. How do you view this development? Do you regard it as an abuse of freedom or do you consider it as something which politicians and society must put up with as part of the growth of democracy?

A: No, I think media freedom means that the media has every right to criticise the Government and individual members of the Government — including the President. The only thing is that there are some instances of misuse of this freedom in which outright lies have been published or broadcast. As long as they criticise according to factual evidence, even if they hold a totally different view from that of the Government, they have a right to say what they want. Even when they express views different from that of the Government, they have a right to say what they want.

But when they concoct things then we have the right to take action within the law. They can have all the freedom they want. But we also have the freedom to go to courts and take the maximum possible action to obtain redress. And that is what I am doing.

But we don't think that we should take measures to restrict the media's right to publish what they want. That is not our style of politics. We want to build democracy and the freedom of expression. All we ask is that journalists exercise their freedom with a sense of national responsibility.



**Daily Lauds President's 'Cautionary Words'***BK2511123695 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English  
25 Nov 95**[Editorial: "Time for prayer" — Received via Internet]*

*[FBIS Transcribed Text]* President Kumaratunga's word of caution to those preparing to celebrate the imminent capture of the town of Jaffna is timely. For one thing the campaign to end the terror in the North and East does not end with the fall of Jaffna. The megalomaniacal leader of the terrorists, Prabhakaran, will not take this defeat easily and is bound to harass the army from his jungle hideouts. If the army succeeds in winning the hearts of the people of Jaffna then Prabhakaran's days are truly numbered. The second reason for the President's call for a subdued note of celebration is the fear that the rejoicing may get out of hand. There is a fear that those same elements who ran amok in 1983 would take this opportunity once more and this time to embarrass the government which has stunned the world by rejuvenating a virtually leaderless army and overwhelming the LTTE which had been allowed to grow in disproportionate strength. Addressing these same elements who are likely to take advantage of the expected victory in Jaffna, Col. Anuruddha Ratwatta has made a tongue in cheek offer to these sinister elements to demonstrate their love for the country by accepting his offer to take them to the battlefield in the North. These cautionary words should go a long way to calm the anxieties, if any, of the minorities now living peacefully in many parts of the southern part of the country. The government, unlike in 1983, is fully prepared to counter any form of violence that may be created by desperate elements. A special bureau has also been set up for the benefit of those who wish to report any suspicious activity. These preparations and the caution sounded by President Kumaratunga herself should allay the fears of the minorities. Rather than jubilation this is more a time for contemplation and prayer.

Religious leaders of all denominations should take the opportunity to give the lead in prayer and meditation. It is a time to remember the thousands who have died for the country, the thousands who have been maimed, the thousands who have been misled into dying for the greater glory of a single fanatic — and these are all our kinsmen.

The conflict in Sri Lanka has not been a civil war as the world has been given to believe by the Tigers because for a greater part of the disturbances the Tamils and Sinhalese were living in peace in the South. It is not a religious conflict as in Ulster where the Catholics and the Protestants do not see eye to eye. It is not even

similar to the conflict between the Arabs and the Jews where each claims precedence over the other on the occupation of what was once called Palestine. Ours is a conflict that has arisen by the nurturing by interested parties of mistrust and lack of confidence between the two major communities.

The bold move made by the PA [People's Alliance] government with its devolution proposals is an attempt to restore this lost confidence and trust. As the conflicts in Bosnia and the Middle East show signs of dying down it is not too much to hope that there will be reconciliation in this country soon to bring about peace and amity for the building of a united Sri Lanka. And let us in all humility, remember Emperor Asoka's famous admonition; Victory breeds hatred because the defeated lie in sorrow.

**LTTE 'Press Release' on Military Situation***BK2711143295 (Internet) soc.culture.sri-lanka  
in English 24 Nov 95*

*["Press release" issued by the LTTE Political Committee at "LTTE Headquarters" on 23 November: "News From Tamil Eelam"]*

*[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt]***Army Halted at Ariyalai**

November 22, 1995 — Reports from Jaffna state that the army advance has been successfully halted by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] forces. The day before yesterday the troops had reached the Kanagaratnam Maha Vidyalayam area. By yesterday they had cut across the Kandy road and made preparations to move towards the city from the eastern end. The LTTE forces brought in their heavy guns and mortars to cause a major set back to the army. The army had retaliated by raining down shells on the residential areas thus destroying hundreds of houses and public buildings. Up to date the army had failed to make any further advance from Ariyalai.

Heavy fighting is still continuing in Ariyalai for the past 24 hours. The Sri Lankan forces are facing stiff resistance from the LTTE forces in their attempts to enter Jaffna city. The Sri Lankan military has unleashed heavy artillery bombardment into the city from their forward lines and the Palaly base. Severe artillery shelling of residential areas in Vadamaratchi, which is totally away from the battle zone, has been carried out as well. Many civilians have been killed and injured. However details are still not available.

In the past few days the random aerial bombing of civilian areas has resulted in several deaths. Thus the

LTTE has advised the refugees to move to Vanni in the main land. Several of those who have moved into Thenmaratchi from Valigamam are heeding the advise and are moving across Kilali lagoon and setting up home again in the mainland.

#### **Navy Attacks the Fishermen**

November 21 — The naval convoy patrolling the seas connecting Vettalaikerni and Kankesanthurai had attacked Tamil fishermen in the Vadamaratchi North sea. At about 7:15 a.m. the navy fired upon these fishermen who had no alternative but to jump into the sea and swim to shore. Though no lives were lost, boats and equipment were abandoned at sea. [passage omitted]

#### **150 Refugee Camps in Thenmaratchi**

More than 2 lakhs of refugees who had fled Valigamam are housed in 150 camps. These people constitute more than 50,000 Tamils with young and old together. The Tamil Rehabilitation Organisation is responsible for the overall management of the camps. Apart from the 150 camps found in Thenmaratchi, a further 8 in Vadamaratchi, 24 in Kilinochchi and more than 50 in the Vanni are maintained by the above organisation. The members of the organisation are a dedicated lot. They are attending to the needs of the refugees at all hours of the day.

#### **People Crossing Kilali on the Increase**

It is observed that during the last few days the number of people from Vadamaratchi and Thenmaratchi leaving for the Vanni lands via Kilali is on the increase. On the 21st 7,000 people were embarking for the Vanni. The roads leading to Kilali are clogged with people on transport vehicles as well as on foot.

#### **600 Acres for Distribution**

The Tamil Eelam Economic development organisation (TEEDOR) has taken steps to distribute 600 acres of cultivable land amongst these who had come to the Vanni from Valigamam. Those farmers who are desirous of obtaining land are requested to contact the said organisation. The available lands are found in the following places: Vilathi Kulam, Manna Kulam, Metkulam and Puthuvilan Kulam. Paddy and other cereals could be successfully produced in these lands observes a press report of the organisation.

#### **50 Percent of the Displaced Persons Have Left for the Vanni**

Of the 5 lakhs of people who had fled from the Valigamam to the Thenmaratchi, Vadamaratchi areas more than half had already reached the Vanni soil.

According to estimates made by the Jaffna Secretariat a ground total of 2.5 lakhs had crossed over to the Vanni. The said Secretariat had also observed that relief measures had been taken to ease the distress of these people.

[Signed] Political Committee, Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

(English translation of the LTTE statement released by LTTE international secretariat, 211 Katherine Road, London E6 1BU, United Kingdom, Tel/Fax: 0181-470 8593.)

#### **Reportage on Government, LTTE Clashes Near Jaffna**

##### **Government Troops Repel Attacks**

BK2711161695 Colombo SUNDAY OBSERVER  
in English 26 Nov 95

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As the 'Riviresa' [sunshine] forces continued their advance President Chandrika Kumaratunga praised the Security Forces and Deputy Defence Minister Colonel Anuruddha Ratwatte for the success of the offensive.

In an interview with the 'Sunday Observer' last week, the President stressed the need for the country to fully appreciate the achievements of the security forces and the crucial role played by Deputy Defence Minister Ratwatte.

Meanwhile, the Operational Headquarters of the Defence Ministry said that army units in 'Riviresa' continued to clear buildings and roadways in Nallur, Ariyalai, Chiviyatheru and Colombuthurai areas. One officer and 12 soldiers were injured by exploding mines and improvised explosive devices, yesterday's military bulletin said.

Notorious Tiger spymaster Pottu Amman and top battle commander Balraj may have been personally directing the two simultaneous attempts to penetrate the advancing Army line at Ariyalai and Colombuthurai, according to yesterday's communique by the Operational Headquarters.

The two attempts to infiltrate Army lines began at about 10 p.m. on Friday [24 November] and the fighting continued in these areas until about 1 a.m. yesterday morning. Many rebel radio stations were monitored by the security forces and some stations identified the presence of Pottu Amman and Balraj, the Operational Headquarters communique said.

Troops repulsed both attacks with fire from small arms, machine guns and artillery causing heavy rebel casualties. The artillery engaged all likely rebel assembly areas and concentrations of rebels, the communique said.

So far troops have recovered 26 bodies of dead rebels while the Tigers are believed to have suffered more casualties due to artillery and mortar bombardment.

#### Government Continues Advance

BK2811094895 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English  
0633 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, 28 Nov (LANKAPUVATH) — Troops of Operation 'Riviresa' [sunshine] further advanced and clearing buildings of booby traps and explosives in general area Chiviyatheru West and north of Chundikkuli commenced at 0930 hours [0400 GMT] 27 Nov 95. Troops showed a feint attack on southwards from Chiviyatheru West area and out flanked terrorist defenses from the north and moved further westwards towards city centre and area south of Kandasamy Kovil. [Hindu temple]

A press release issued by the operational headquarters of the Ministry of Defense further states advancing columns met with terrorists resistance from the southern and the north western flanks. Artillery and mortar engaged terrorist concentrations effectively causing heavy casualties. Sri Lanka Air Force engaged identified LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] targets in the area north west of Jaffna Fort. Though the pilots have confirmed direct hits on these targets the number of terrorists killed and injured due to air and artillery attacks are not available yet. Due to confrontations during the advance on 27 November 95, troops suffered two soldiers killed in action and three officers and 24 soldiers wounded. Troops recommenced their advance further westwards towards the city centre.

#### Troops To Take Jaffna 'Soon'

BK2811112095 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English  
1045 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Deputy Defense Minister Colonel Anuruddha Ratwatte says that troops will soon take over Jaffna and its administration be brought under the government. In a special interview with the SLBC [Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation], he said that the innocent Tamil people will be given the opportunity to live in a peaceful environment in the liberated areas. Plans for this purpose have already been prepared. The government is ready to resettle the civilians evacuated by forces in the Kilinochchi, Chavakachcheri and Thenmarachchi areas and to overcome any threat from

the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. Colonel Ratwatte emphasized that the LTTE would not be given an opportunity hereafter to obstruct any measures taken by the government. He added that the myth of the LTTE had been disclosed to the world by the wise political leadership and might of the security forces.

#### Rebels Said To Be 'Disillusioned'

BK2811113295 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English  
28 Nov 95

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As Operation Riviresa [sunshine] troops advanced further from Nallur and Columbuturai tightening the siege on the heart of Jaffna city yesterday morning, a section of the trapped Tigers had begun openly voicing their unwillingness to continue fighting.

This open defiance on the part of bitter and disillusioned cadres of Banu's and Theepan's groups facing the brunt of the army assault, when the Tiger top rangers were snug in safe jungle hideouts, could soon spread and escalate into a mutiny, according to military analysts.

Hundreds of rebels trapped inside Jaffna city are making desperate appeals to Tiger leaders for medical assistance and reinforcements, transmissions monitored by troops have revealed. They are also running short of ammunition.

"The order given by the Tiger leadership that lower rankers should fight to the end has only reinforced the notions that the rank and file should act as mere cannon fodder and that their lives are worthless to the people at the top," defence sources in Colombo said, amidst reports that Tigers were keeping a number of suicide squads on stand by in Jaffna to attack advancing soldiers. They said Tigers have been instructed to engage in a "do or die" battle with the armed forces.

"Terrorists from prepared defensive positions with overhead cover, offered stiff resistance when troops began their advance at first light on Sunday [26 November] from the captured Nallur and Colombuturai areas," a Defence Ministry Press release said yesterday.

Concentrated arms fire had to be used to overcome strong prepared defences. Transmissions monitored indicated that terrorists had withdrawn further inwards, the release said.

At least 55 terrorists were killed and 75 injured in fighting on Sunday. Security forces suffered 12 soldiers dead and 2 officers and 26 soldiers wounded, it said.

Meanwhile, the state news agency LANKAPUVATH yesterday quoted senior military sources as saying that



troops moving from Columbuthurai towards Jaffna city had taken up a position only 300 metres away from the Government Agent's official residence by yesterday morning.

Operation Riviresa was launched on October 17 when thousands of soldiers backed by artillery, armour and air

cover broke out of the Forward Defended Localities of the Palaly military complex in the Jaffna peninsula and moved southwards towards the Tiger bastion of Jaffna. Over 1,600 rebels and over 350 soldiers have so far been killed during the offensive.

